

# SCOTLAND'S STORY

**45**

**Sharp end of  
building the  
British Empire**

**Labour Party's  
father and saint**

**Scientific Scots  
create the 2nd  
Enlightenment**

**How women  
won the vote**

**Early photography  
images of wonder  
by a pencil of light**



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**1873**

David Livingstone, symbol of Scotland's involvement in the Empire, dies in Africa.

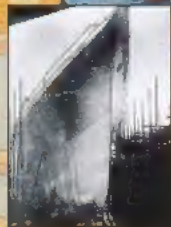
**1876**

Second Enlightenment genius Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.



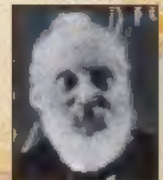
**1881**

The Clyde is pre-eminent in the shipbuilding trade.



**1899**

Scientist of the second Enlightenment, Sir William Thomson, gives his final lecture at Glasgow University.



**1890**

Scotland's pioneering photographers lose their grip as Kodak's 'Box Brownie' appears.



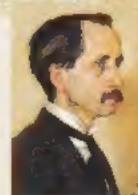
**1906**

Pioneer of women's suffrage, Jessie MacLaren MacGregor, dies tragically in America.



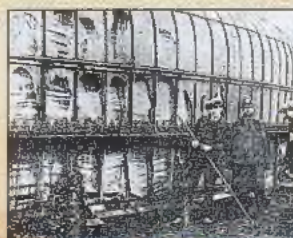
**1904**

J M Barrie's 'Peter Pan' is published and meets with great popular acclaim.



**1912**

Scotland's cities are attacked by 'bombs for suffrage'.



**1910**

Socialist visionary Keir Hardie argues for votes for women.



**In Part 46:  
Scotland and  
the Great War**





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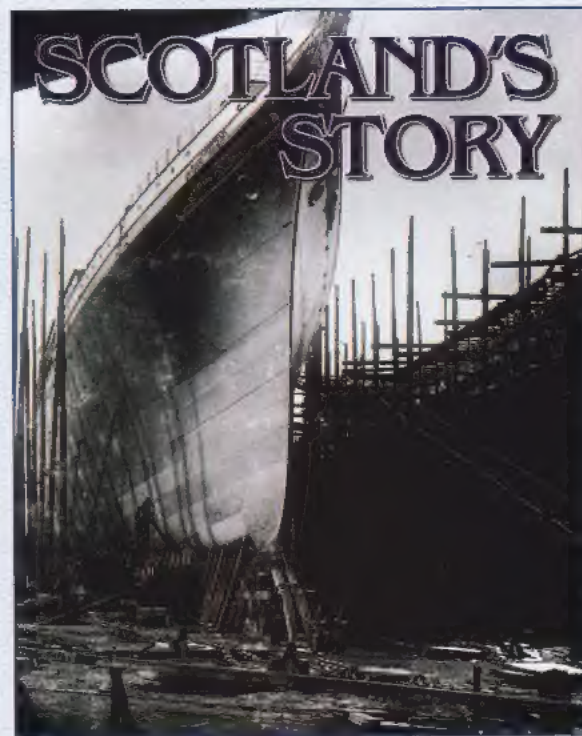
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**COVER**  
The Clyde-built City of New York was one of the wonders of the industrial age when it was launched at the end of the 19th century. It was the epitome everything Clyde-built meant to the world – simply the biggest and the best.

# Building the age of Empire

From the 1880s to the First World War, Scotland was ablaze with industrial development. The Empire was at its height and Clyde-built steamers of 40,000 tons and more ruled the world's oceans. Scottish technical know-how and capital investment was widening colonial trade, cutting huge swathes of commercial and infrastructural development through India, Africa and elsewhere.

At home, heavy industry and textiles formed the backbone of the domestic economy and specialisation became an established principle. It was around this time that Glasgow established itself as second only to London as an engine of the Imperial mission.

Through its leading role in the British Empire, Scotland brought capital wealth and development to the colonial territories, but there was a darker side. The often brutal imposition of foreign ways on native societies created a well of resentment that still has serious implications today.

Leamington's Keir Hardie was, more than any other individual, the architect of the Labour movement in

Britain. His personal experience as a child-collier, and his grasp of political thought, made him a formidable leader for the workers who found themselves being increasingly exploited as the country experienced a so-called 'golden age' of prosperity.

The inequities of capitalism aside, Hardie also had to fight established political parties – in particular the Liberals – who rightly feared the potential that socialism had for luring away a large section of their potential supporters.

The modern struggle to secure women's parity with men in Scotland has deep roots. Usually perceived as being an early 20th century phenomenon, militant activism by women against political exclusion can be traced back at least a century earlier when, for example, there were many among the tens of thousands who rallied for electoral reform in Glasgow, while Ayrshire had its own Female Reformers' society.

As with many reform issues of the time, the struggle for female emancipation in Scotland at this time had both national Scottish and British dimensions.



# Scotland becomes a



■ The City of New York in its Clyde yard was one of the wonders that made Clyde-built ships the biggest, finest and most modern in the world.

**It was a fever of bustle, movement, smells and a cacophony of sound. Hooting ships, steam pistons, swinging cranes, the roar and hiss of furnaces. It was dynamic Scotland on the centre stage**

It is no surprise that post-industrial Scotland has also become post-British. However, as the nation searches for a new identity it is easy to forget that Britain's age of industrial achievement was also Scotland's, that Britain's apex point of imperial, commercial and industrial power rested in considerable part on Scotland's achievements.

The case of Scottish industry also highlights the intense regionalism of economic growth. For, as central Scotland grew to industrial maturity, the rural north west struggled to maintain its unique economic and cultural identity.

That is not to say that the Highlands and Islands wanted or deserved their own 'Industrial Revolution'. But there is no doubt that this period witnessed increased divisions between the two Scotlands. Thus, in the 1880s, when the workers of the Clyde were switching from iron to steel ships, the small farmers of Glendale, Skye, were

announcing their desperation to the world in the Crofters' War.

The population of Scotland came purposefully to reflect the demands of industrial society. Despite the vagaries of economic life in parts of the north, Scotland's population increased dramatically in the 19th century, nearly doubling from 2.37 million in 1801 to 4.47 million a century later. The West of Scotland sucked in a still larger share of the nation's populace: up from 628,528 (26.6 per cent) in 1831 to 1,976,640 (44.2 per cent) in 1901.

Glasgow stood at the centre of this highly-industrialised region, growing to a size equalled (outside London) by Liverpool alone. The two great ports also shared a less praiseworthy distinction – they were the unhealthiest places in Britain in 1891. Even with high death-rates, however, Glasgow had become the empire's second city by the eve of war in 1914. The



# world powerhouse



■ Sunny day in Coatbridge: ironic humour appeared on picture postcards of the day.

transformation in population was matched by a change in wealth, as Scotland narrowed the gap with England throughout these years. Scottish wages also increased. Having been lower for much of the century, the pay received by the average Scot reached equivalence with the English worker in the 1880s.

At the same time, the central belt of Scotland had become one of Britain's wealthiest regions. An official inquiry reported in the 1890s that Scotland covered its own costs in terms of tax revenues and even produced surplus revenue.

So great was central Scotland's industrial prowess that even advanced industrial regions in England paled in relative terms. This was the period when Scotland's reputation as one of the world's leading industrial economies was made. Its reliance upon heavy engineering and metal manufacture and shipbuilding – what has in recent times been viewed as an achilles' heel – was then a positive boon.

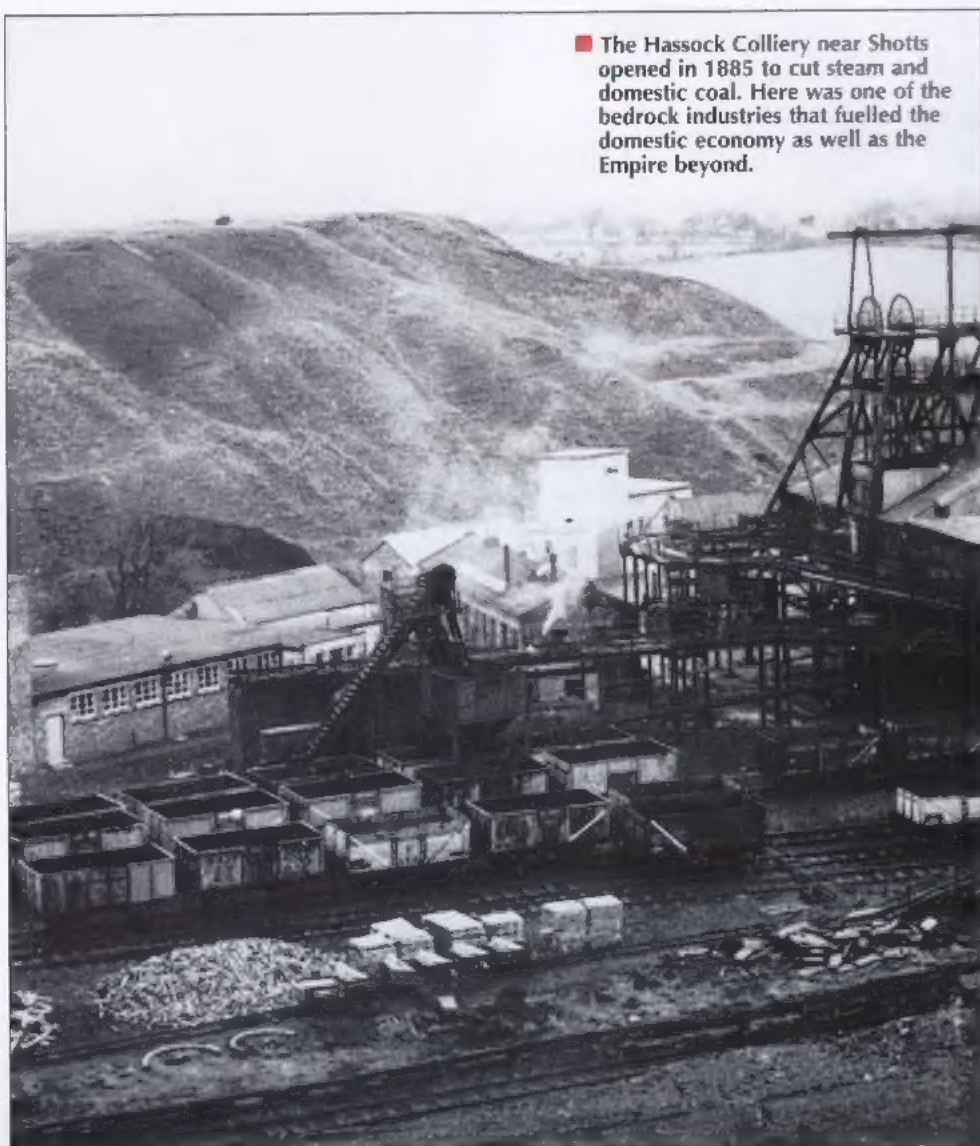
These were dynamic industries and Scotland stood at the cutting edge. Capital investment, new technology and economies of scale – the sorts of advanced industrial thinking we usually associate with Andrew Carnegie's America – were very much in evidence in Scotland.

In the period 1880-1914, Britain's capital prowess was concentrated in Scotland to a much greater extent than at any other time. Scotland was able to draw on a uniquely-rich combination of assets as it sought to develop an industrial base.

Mineral resources were plentiful, with both coal and iron-ore available in copious seams around the main centres of industry. Scotland's 145,000 colliers produced 14.5 per cent of all British coal in 1914, with the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire coal-fields rising up alongside the traditional centre of Scottish coal, West Fife. Scotland's iron-ore production actually fell in the second half of the century from its peak of 2.5 million tons in 1854.

However, new sources of the mineral were found in places such as west Cumberland and Teesside, with Scots iron-masters paying for improved rail access in the case of the former.

With these ores, and others imported from Spain and elsewhere, Scots iron and steel production held steady between the 1860s and 1914 (notwithstanding periods of decline) at



■ The Hassock Colliery near Shotts opened in 1885 to cut steam and domestic coal. Here was one of the bedrock industries that fuelled the domestic economy as well as the Empire beyond.

more than one million tons per annum.

Rail, too, was a vital part of the Scots success story. By 1900 more than £150m had been invested in this form of transport. Industrialisation also prospered because of natural phenomena: Scotland is blessed with big rivers and these acted as arteries in supplying towns and industries with the access to markets and labour.

Glasgow was linked by the Clyde to the sea and then the world. East-coast Scotland had long maintained links with Scandinavia and the Baltic, which were exploited commercially in these years. Dundee, via the Tay, had a direct route to India, which provided the raw materials for her famous textile manufacture. Even then, the limitations of nature were not allowed to stand in the way of what was seen as natural human progress. When the Clydeside shipbuilding firm of John Brown and Co. in 1913 built the 47,500 ton trans-Atlantic steamer, the *Aquitania*, it paid £10,000 to widen and deepen the Clyde.

Shipbuilding was at once Scots, trans-Atlantic

and global. The capacity of the Clydeside yards put the region at the centre of an increasingly international economic universe. Cunard, the shipping firm which originated in Canada, relied to a remarkable degree on Scots ingenuity and industry. Its ships were among the most reliable, thanks to its engines designed by Robert Napier, 'the prince of marine engineers'.

Cunard, and thus Scotland, dominated the Atlantic. Whether the ships ran from the Clyde or the Mersey, they were mostly Clydeside-built. In the 1890s, when steel and steam ships finally eclipsed all competing vessel types, Britain built around 80 per cent of the world's ships.

In 1914, on the eve of war, the proportion was still 60 per cent. In 1881, workers on the Clyde built more tons of ships than both the Tyne and Wear put together (341,000 tons against 308,000).

In 1914 the superiority remained similar with 757,000 tons launched on the Clyde as against 666,000 on the Tyne and Wear combined. If ►



## The great Scottish Labour tradition developed out of the shipyards, the steel mills and the mines, and was heard above the textile factory din

► Britain was a constellation of ships, Clydeside was its brightest star. In this period, ships required iron and then steel. Therefore, ships had a knock-on effect for the production of other metal products. Precision engine parts, plate-work, boilers, mounting blocks, piping, railway lines, girders, nails, screws, rivets, washers – all these required metals of varying grades – iron, steel, brass and copper.

Scotsmen dug the ore, smelted the metal and made all these component parts. Scotland's economic might undoubtedly rested on the shipbuilding and engineering industries, but there were other spheres of enormous energy.

Textiles provided Scotland with an industry unheralded south of the Border because of the prowess of Lancashire cotton and Yorkshire wool. But Glasgow had long been an important textile centre, importing cotton bales, as did Liverpool, from the southern states of America, and transforming them into cheap garments for the working class.

Gradually, though, this market was lost to Lancashire and new and specialised niches were sought. Dundee's involvement in the flax and jute industry is legendary; its sky-line of mills and tenements were once ample testimony to the degree of connection between Scotland and the Empire. Dunfermline produced high-quality linen, and lace-making was notable in Ayrshire. In the 1880s, Scottish textiles employed more than 100,000 workers, two-thirds of whom were women.

With specialisation, Scotland settled on an utterly dominant position in three markets – cotton thread, jute and linoleum. With textiles also came the spur for other industries. Chemicals was but one example, with the need for dyes, detergents, and other treatments promoting growth.

The fact may embarrass Scots today, but, in the high age of industrialism, Scotland's enormous energy underpinned the British imperial endeavour. Scots soldiers were an obvious presence in India and Africa, many of them transported on vessels made on the Clyde. Much of the commercial traffic that gave the Empire its economic rationale was carried in Scottish merchant ships.

A subtler and far more pervasive influence was at work in the shape of Scots capital penetration. Banks, merchant houses and commercial adventurers from Scotland made notable strides in the partition of the world's economic potential.

Miller Bros were deeply ensconced in the otherwise Liverpool-dominated palm olive trade that brought to Britain, from the Niger region of



■ Seaward a great ship: the engineering marvel that was the City of New York passes Bowling.

Africa, a vital ingredient of soap. The company later became the hub of the Royal Niger Co., formed in 1886.

Another company, Jardine Matheson and Co., established its Indian and Chinese presence following involvement with the murky trade in opium, but it later developed into the largest banking and bill brokers in India and China.

All manner of Scots bankers and financiers developed careers in the Far East, working up through the ranks of companies such as the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

This was the case with the Edinburgh-born Charles Addis (1861-1945), who became an

important financier and Foreign Office advisor in China.

While Scots commercial and banking prowess was being demonstrated on an international stage, smaller scale industrial acumen was also being tapped elsewhere.

Cumbrian iron-smelting businesses were for the most part capitalised and dominated by Scots companies such as Bairds of Gartsherrie and the famous Carron concern. Industrialists were followed by specialist labour, too, so that many of the skilled men in the shipyards of Tyneside, Wearside and Belfast had been trained on the Clyde.

The engineering, steel-making and shipbuilding





■ Reeking industry was personified in the Coatbridge Tinplate Works.

works of Barrow-in-Furness attracted so many Scots that, by 1911, the borough was home to proportionately more Scots-born workers than any other in England. It is one of the most noteworthy images of these years that while capitalists flexed their muscles on an international stage and became wealthier by large degrees, their workers developed a deep-seated, and some might say bridling, sense of 'them and us'.

It was in Scotland, based upon industrial traditions, that class-conscious workers first came en masse to express a common heritage through radical politics and militant trades' unionism.

The great Scottish Labour tradition, whose

hegemony has only recently been challenged, developed in the shipyards and the steel mills; it rose from the mines; it was heard above the din of the textile factories.

James Keir Hardie, who came from Scots mining stock, remains the emblem figure of the British Labour Party in its embryonic years. James Wheatley and Pete Curran were products of Glasgow's Scots-Irish Catholic tradition. James Connolly came from Edinburgh of Irish parent to take the message of class beyond the sectarianism of organised religions.

In its hey-day, central Scotland was a cacophony of industrial noise and a furnace of industrial heat. Swinging cranes and hooting ships signified the



■ Tin churches were a Scots speciality and could be sent to the Empire.

activity of the Clyde; steam pistons and the clang of metal on metal were audible in every small town and village.

Engine-shops and rope-works, flour mills and saw mills, tanneries and canneries, chemical factories and dye-works – all of these emitted their own contribution to the sound and smell of an industrial and urban world.

When it was visible, Clydeside was one of the most impressive sights in industrial history. It was a monument, at once, to human endeavour and to its limitations – even as late as the Second World War, Glasgow was regularly lost amid a thick and hazardous smog. ●

## THE FAMILY BUSINESS

One of Scotland's most successful families during the 'golden age' of heavy industry were the Neilsons. Their story helps illustrate how a relatively small elite community controlled Scotland's industrial wealth and how that wealth was passed from generation to generation.

The Neilsons established themselves at the forefront of the country's emergent industrial capitalist elite in the early 19th century and went on to maintain that position for almost a century.

The first generation of the dynasty were two brothers, John and James Beaumont Neilson. They were born in Shettleston, which was at that time a small village near Glasgow.

James became a star of the industrial age when he patented the hot-blast process in 1828. It enabled blackband ironstone to be successfully smelted using local splint coal in small furnaces – drastically reducing production costs.

This enabled a whole host of

ironmasters to spring up in the west around Airdrie and Coatbridge.

James' brother John, meanwhile, earned his reputation at his Oakbank Engine works and foundry where all branches of mechanical engineering from boilermaking to blast furnace and colliery engines were made.

John Neilson's sons – Walter, William and Hugh – formed an energetic trio which ran iron works at Summerlee and Mossend, near Holytown. Walter, in particular, demonstrated his abilities as a first-class engineer.

In 1843, William founded the Mossend Iron Company which ran a malleable iron works for the manufacture of wrought iron at Mossend.

Summerlee, meanwhile, had, by 1868, eight blast furnaces.

Like many of their contemporaries, the Neilsons owned or leased their own coal and ironstone mines, not only in Lanarkshire, but in several counties in Scotland.

As heavy industries such as ship

building took off, switching from iron to steel, the Neilsons moved with the times.

By its third generation, the family's two companies were united in 1886 into the Summerlee and Mossend Iron and Steel Co.

Mossend later closed amidst labour struggles and diminishing returns, but Summerlee grew in strength by concentrating production on coal and pig-iron.

By 1910, the company employed 4,100 miners in eight mines.

Industrial disputes and collapsing markets precipitated a steady decline in the early decades of the 20th century, but that did not prevent long-serving director John Neilson bequeathing his heirs a vast fortune on his death in 1935.

For the workers that laboured at collieries and metal works under the often oppressive Neilson regime, the rewards were certainly never as great.



# Keir Hardie: Labour's architect and saint



■ Keir Hardie speaks out in support of women's rights with Emmeline Pankhurst on a Trafalgar Square platform during a 1910 rally.

**It began slowly and there were setbacks. Strikes, and rhetoric did not at first win support in large numbers. But the Labour cause was not to be denied**

**T**he year 2000 marks the British Labour Party's centenary. Trade unionists and socialists came together in London on February 27, 1900, to form the Labour Representation Committee, although only in 1906 would this new organisation feel confident enough to adopt the Labour Party name. At the founding conference, Scotland and individual Scotsmen played a crucial role, as they have done throughout the Party's history.

Appointed as the national secretary was James Ramsay MacDonald who, in 1924, would become the first ever Labour Prime Minister before achieving greater

notoriety in 1931 when he 'betrayed' his Party and established a National Government. Of greater significance in 1900, however, was James Keir Hardie.

Keir Hardie is the nearest thing to a secular saint the labour movement has ever had. Born the illegitimate son of a farm servant in rural Lanarkshire in 1856, Hardie was sent to work in the coal pits when only 10.

Largely self-educated and determined to improve his own prospects and those of his fellow workers, Hardie was one of the leading figures trying to build up unionism among the miners in the West of Scotland. A skilled

propagandist, he became a journalist and sat for the London constituency of West Ham between 1892 and 1895.

In many respects, Hardie was the principal architect of the political strategy which brought socialists and trade unionists together in the cause of independent labour. He was the leading figure of the Independent Labour Party (ILP), which had been formed in Bradford in 1893, but five years prior to this he had established the Scottish Labour Party (SLP) following his decision to stand at the Mid-Lanark by election in 1888.

The main problem confronting socialists and others in favour of labour representation was the



strength of Liberalism and the popular appeal it had for the working class as much as the middle class.

From the time of the First or Great Reform Act of 1832, Scotland had returned a majority of Liberal MPs. It was the Liberal Party, particularly under its pre-eminent leader, William Ewart Gladstone (both of whose parents were Scottish) that had come to represent freedom, political rights and moral purpose.

The Liberals dominated Government during the period of mid-Victorian prosperity when free trade and expanding opportunities had secured employment and rising living standards. For the Scottish economy – so much of which was dependent upon the capital goods or 'heavy' industries and selling in world markets – Liberalism worked.

However, by the 1880s, the Liberals were facing new, more urgent pressures from a number of different sources. Gladstone's decision to secure Home Rule for Ireland led to a revolt within his own Party. It led to the leading radical figure, Joseph Chamberlain, leaving to form the Liberal Unionist Party in 1886 which, in alliance with the Tories, helped establish a Conservative majority in parliament for most of the next 20 years.

As in Ireland, so the Scottish Highlands experienced their own 'land war' and in the general election of 1885 four candidates of the Crofters' Party won seats in the northern counties.

This agitation, greatly aided by the writings of the American author, Henry George, who advocated a single tax on land values, stimulated opinion in urban Scotland and encouraged a questioning of orthodox political economy.

The 1880s also saw increasing recognition of the problem of endemic poverty, unemployment and huge disparities between rich and poor.

It witnessed a new growth of trade unionism – often militant, sometimes violent – among unskilled workers who had often been regarded as incapable of such organisation.

This decade also saw the establishment of the modern socialist movement with the formation of the Social Democratic Federation (SDF) and the Socialist League (SL). While such parties were minuscule in terms of membership or votes, nonetheless they introduced a new element to political life. For many

there was a loathing of party politics – of the manoeuvring in parliament and the empty rhetoric of election promises. For socialists it was the social question that was paramount and the need was to educate people in the principles of socialism.

Particular reforms were often referred to as the 'dreaded palliatives' which by 'improving' the workers' condition would only serve to further enslave them to capitalism.

However, when socialists took the lead in organising the unemployed, as they did in Glasgow in 1887 and 1888, they found themselves making demands for immediate relief, such as opening soup kitchens by the municipal authorities.

As the hoped for 'revolution' failed to materialise, many socialists found themselves drawn to the cause of direct independent labour representation, to campaign for immediate reforms while struggling for the ultimate goal of socialism.

As R B Cunninghame Graham explained at the founding conference of the SLP, a new party beyond the Liberals was needed because the working classes 'were not getting a

fair share of the benefits of civilisation; and the means he proposed to help them were shorter hours of labour, relief works for the unemployed, nationalisation of the means of the land, and the means of production."

As is well known, Hardie's pioneering effort in 1888 did not succeed – he came a poor last in the election – and the cause of Labour representation did not flourish in Scotland. Hardie had to go to England to get a seat, Labour only won its first Scottish constituency in 1906 and by 1910 there were just three Labour MPs north of the Tweed, compared to 34 in England and five in Wales.

Yet, in terms of organisation, Scotland was often prepared to take the lead. In 1897 the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) was formed as a result of the British TUC's perceived lack of attention to Scottish affairs and its decision not to allow trades councils (which were more open to socialist influence) to affiliate.

The STUC then went on to establish the Scottish Workers'

Representation Committee (SWRC) prior to the formation of the LRC and, unlike the British body, the Scottish committee had delegates from the Co-operative Societies as well as trade unionists and socialists.

In municipal politics Glasgow led the way with its Workers' Election Committee (WEC) comprising the trades council, the ILP, the co-operators and Irish Nationalists, and which briefly established a labour group known as the Stalwarts on the town council in the 1890s.

However, this emphasis on organisation can be seen as due to the weakness of the wider labour movement, particularly the trade unions. Throughout Britain unions represented only a minority of workers, but the general level of unionisation was lower in Scotland than in England and Wales. Scottish unions tended to be very small and deeply attached to a belief in local autonomy.

Even among the miners there were no constituencies such as Durham or Northumberland, where the unions could effectively impose an electoral agreement with the ►



■ Making a point: James Keir Hardie frozen in mid-flow by artist Henry John Dobson in 1893.



► Liberals. This relative weakness meant Scottish workers were more dependent upon parliament to secure minimum conditions within industry such as a maximum working day.

At the same time, it meant that local Liberal Associations felt no pressure to adopt working men as candidates. Indeed Scottish Liberal hostility to any such suggestions meant that the electoral pact arranged between Labour and the Liberal Parties in 1903 did not run in Scotland.

When Hardie issued his challenge in mid-Lanark it was, at least initially, very much a challenge from within Liberalism. The Liberals were saying they were prepared to accept working class votes but not working class candidates.

Had the constituency association chosen Hardie, rather than the Welsh barrister it did select, the subsequent history of the two parties might have been very different.

Hardie's defeat has often been laid at the door of the Irish who remained wedded to the Liberals in the hope of securing Home Rule. However, this exaggerates the strength of the Irish electors who were a clear minority (as they were in every constituency) and underestimates the continuing resilience of Liberalism in Scotland.

The new-found strength of the Conservatives and their Liberal Unionist allies actually helped unite the Liberals and dissuade some potential Labour voters from straying outwith the fold.

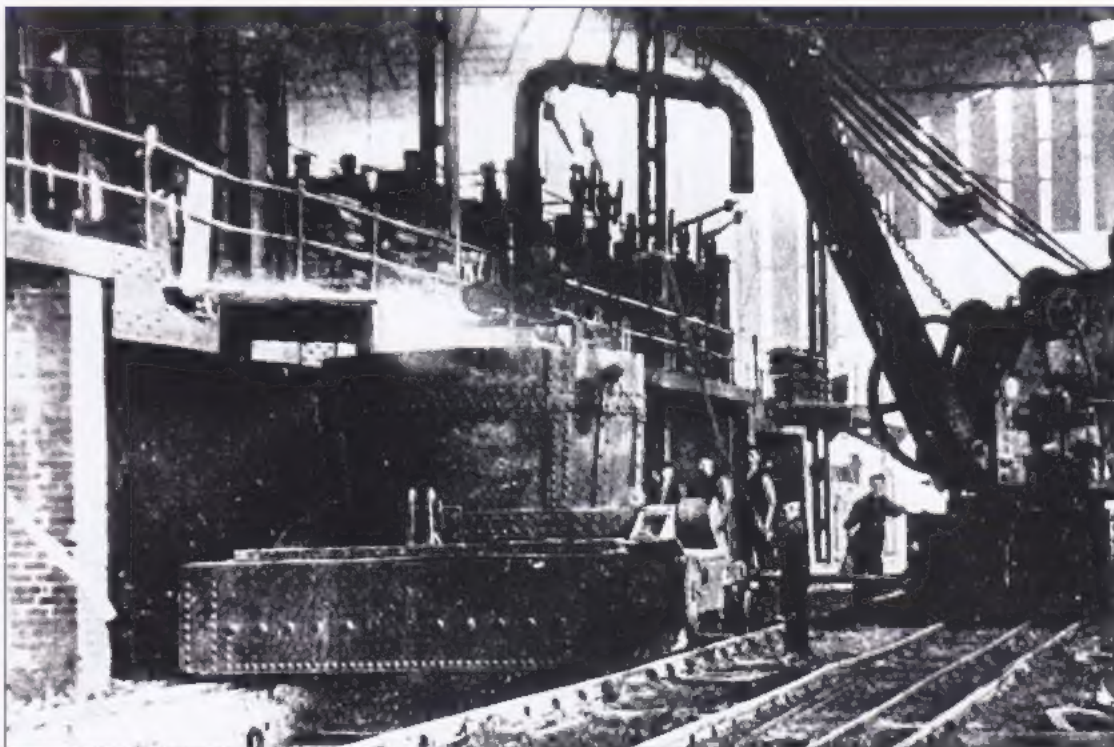
The traditional Liberal dominance was seriously eroded and in the election of 1900 Scotland, for the first time since 1832, failed to return a Liberal majority.

Yet most of this encroachment was due as much to the Liberal Unionists as to outright support for Conservatism and, in 1906, the natural political order was restored with a massive swing back to the Liberals.

Furthermore, in the twin general elections of 1910, unlike in England where the Tories were the majority party, the Scottish Liberals held 58 of the 70 seats.

This Liberal resurgence did not mean that Edwardian Scottish society was free from tensions. The economy continued to grow though problems were becoming apparent in iron and steel, cotton and even shipbuilding.

Scotland's dependence upon exports made her industries



■ Sweat, noise and danger... it was from scenes like these that the Labour party developed. The picture shows a pithead steam crane at David Colville & Sons' Dalzell Steel Work at Motherwell about 1890.

vulnerable to sudden shifts and downturns in trade – periodic unemployment, even for skilled men, was a fact of life.

Industrial depressions in 1904-05 and 1908-09 stretched working class self-help to breaking point, especially as the Scottish Poor Law did not

Scottish employers were notoriously authoritarian and anti-union, but when unemployment fell during 1910, workers now had the opportunity of regaining some of the ground they had lost.

The labour unrest in the years before the War alarmed some and encouraged others. The Scottish socialist John Maclean, enthused that "it is not impossible to believe that we are living in the rapids of revolution"

Yet, the wave of strikes and disputes which, certainly in the West of Scotland was both widespread and sustained, had no immediate political benefit for Labour. The SWRC had, in 1909, been subsumed into the Labour Party but organisation and finances continued to be a problem.

At the general election of December 1910 Labour only stood in five Scottish seats and at the subsequent by-elections over the next four years Labour only contested a minority and came bottom of the poll in every one.

It was the Liberals who continued to set the pace: 'New Liberalism' saw the introduction of a series of welfare reforms such as Old Age Pensions. It was in a direct confrontation with the House of Lords and the pretensions of inherited privilege; it held out the promise of major land reform and it championed Home Rule.

On nearly every issue the

Parliamentary Labour Party had little option but to support the Liberals, throwing into question the validity of voting Labour if this was simply going to let the Tories in.

Analysing the position of Labour on the eve of the First World War is intriguing.

We know that after the War Labour quickly dominated the industrial constituencies of the Central Belt. But prior to the War, Labour could only hope to damage the Liberals, not take their place.

Even in Glasgow, where there was, once again, a substantial Labour group on the town council, including future major figures such as John Wheatley, it remained a minority presence.

Yet the strength of Labour was growing – the strike waves of 1910-14 saw increasing numbers of workers (including substantial numbers of women) enrolled in the unions.

Scottish levels of unionisation now matched those of England and Wales, and there were increased affiliation fees going to the national Party.

Locally, Labour was establishing an independent voice over housing, which lay behind its successes in Glasgow and, critically, was appealing directly to women.

What lay in front of Labour in 1914 was the likelihood of slow but steady growth. It was the seismic shift brought by the First World War which would change the face of Scottish politics and Labour's prospects. ●



■ Labour's Scottish Secretariat's paper with Wallace on the cover.

recognise the able-bodied as entitled to any relief.

At the same time, increasing foreign competition put pressure on the profits of many companies, encouraging management to cut labour costs and break with customary practices through speeding up jobs and introducing piece-work.



# How women fought and won their vote

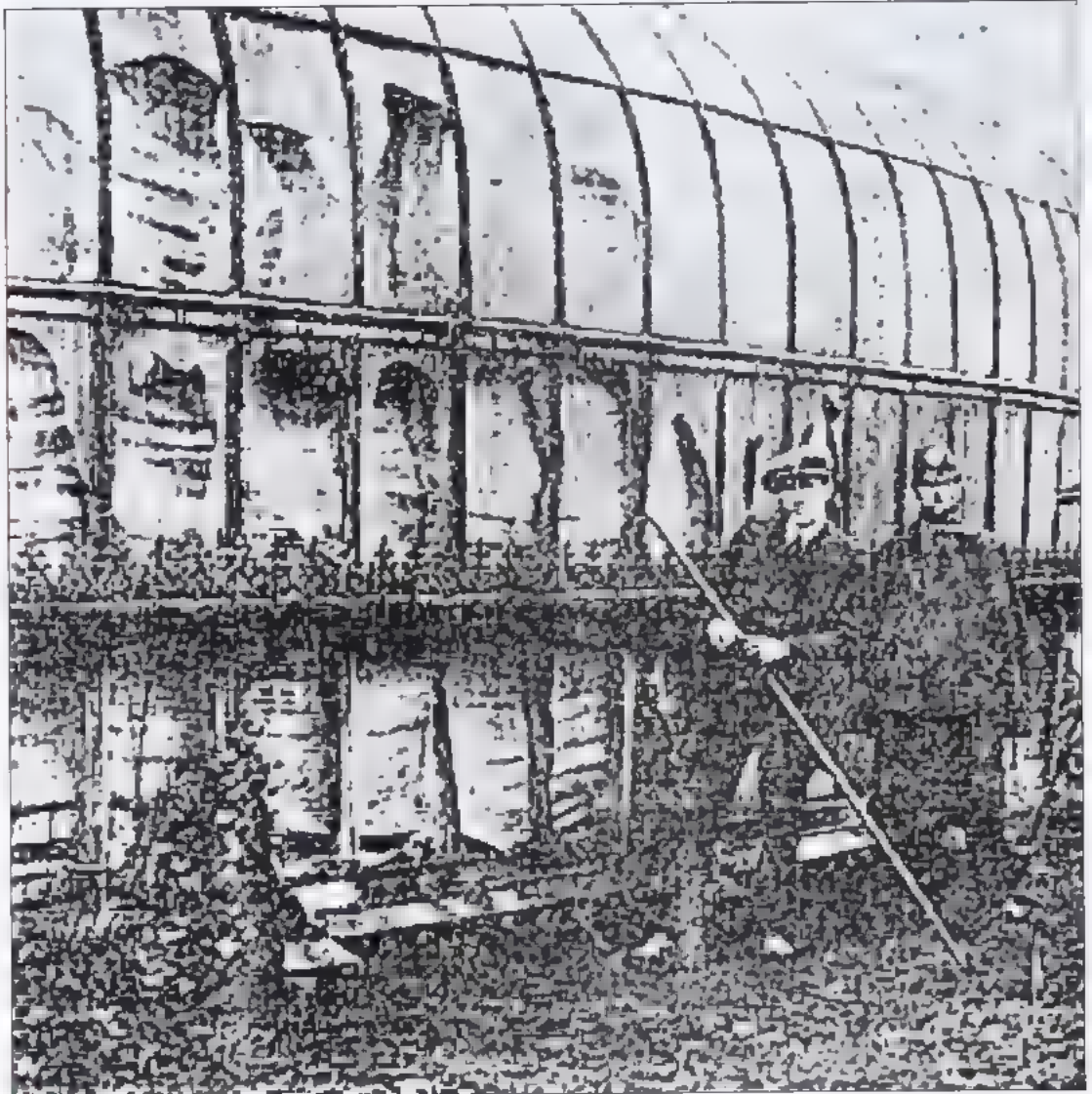
**They provoked arrest, went on hunger strike, bombs exploded, but the 'weaker vessels' boldly continued their campaign for final victory**

**T**he movement for women's suffrage in Scotland is most immediately associated with the early 20th century, and the high-profile campaign of militant activists who sought to extend Parliamentary voting rights. It is ironic, therefore, that almost a century previously a conspicuous female presence had been noted at the celebrated political demonstration at Thrushgrove, near Glasgow.

Held in October, 1816, to promote reform of Scotland's notoriously restricted electoral system, 'many of our fair countrywomen' were reported among the crowd of 40,000. Three years later women's involvement in radical causes was further demonstrated by the striking example of the Female Reformers' Society of Galston, an Ayrshire weaving community.

With 279 members, there was evident strength of local feeling in pursuit of political rights. However, the momentum of such militancy in Scotland slowed down as a result of the abortive 'Radical Rising' in 1820. Reforming energies came to be redirected towards more cautious moderatism and an agenda that specifically advocated the extension of the male vote.

The 1832 Scottish Reform Act bestowed the property-based franchise on some 65,000 men aged



■ A bomb for suffrage: the damage to the elegant glasshouse of Kibble Palace at Glasgow's Botanic Garden.

over 21. Given that a substantial number of males were still excluded from the political process, the vexed question of women's suffrage generally remained low in the priorities of contemporary reformers. Indeed, in 1838 an anonymous contributor to the significantly titled *True Scotsman* newspaper expressed the views of many within the newly formed Chartist movement when he dismissed the capabilities of 'the fair sex'.

Using an argument that became

familiar during the course of the 19th century, he opined: 'The very age, nature had born to them, that the "weaker vessels" are not allowed to enter the arena of controversy.'

Yet despite this pessimistic misogynist attitude, women's bodies did patrol the public ground for political recognition. They were found especially among the ranks of the Owenite socialists, called after their mentor Robert Owen, of New Lanark fame.

The Owenites advocated full equality for women and used able

craft andists like Agnes Hamilton of Paisley to project their message across Scotland. They also embraced controversy. Emma Martin, an Owenite missionary noted for her unorthodox views on marriage and religion, precipitated a near riot when she appeared in Glasgow in 1844.

The 1830s and 1840s were decades of ideological flux, with profound reappraisal of prevailing power structures and interpretations of democracy. Marion Reid was one middle-class Scot who chose the ►



► literary route to comment on how the great debates of the time seemed to be passing women by. Her book 'A Plea for Women', was first published in Edinburgh in 1843

Reid was scathing about the continuing subservience of women, despite the much-vaunted reforming impulse in politics after 1832. She claimed that progress for women was ambiguous in relation to men's experience "She advances, it is true, when he advances, but it is no less true that she is always kept some steps behind him"

With her focus on the goal of 'equal civil rights', Reid argued that redress of female grievances was dependent on legal reform and greater educational opportunity. Her iconoclastic ideas became influential well beyond Scotland. 'A Plea for Women' was soon a key text for activists in the fledgling female suffrage movement of the United States

Reid's work was also timely in relation to developments within the United Kingdom. Franchise reform remained resolutely to the forefront of political debate. As the campaign intensified during the mid-19th century, ideas about women's involvement, as articulated by Reid and others, began to make small but significant inroads.

In 1867 John Stuart Mill took positive steps to promote the cause of women's suffrage when he put forward an amendment to the Reform Bill, then progressing through Parliament

The empowerment of the urban 'working man' had been the prime objective of reformers at this time, demonstrating to Mill and his allies that women would be left politically languishing, despite the wide scope of the proposed legislation

Their aim had been to delete references to the 'masculine gender' in the Bill, a measure that predictably met with scant Parliamentary approval. MPs considered that they had made enough of a gesture to democracy by increasing the number of urban male voters, which jumped from 54,000 to 154,000 when the Second Reform Act was eventually passed for Scotland in 1868

Yet Mill's efforts generated considerable support for the issue of votes for women. During the course of 1867 the National Society of Women's Suffrage set up branches in London, Manchester and Edinburgh. The President of the Edinburgh Society was Priscilla McLaren, whose radical Liberal husband,



■ The Scottish Women's Hospitals of the First World War were the inspiration of Dr Elsie Inglis and were staffed by women doctors and nurses. They admirably demonstrated what women could achieve in medicine. The box carries patriotic messages like 'Help gallant little Serbia' and 'Help the Scottish Women's Hospitals'.



Duncan McLaren MP, had given strong support to Mill over the women's amendment in Parliament

A Glasgow branch of the Society was inaugurated in 1870, and like its Edinburgh counterpart put much energy into petitioning the House of Commons for

extension of the franchise

Between 1867 and 1876, under the Society's auspices, some two million signatures were collected in Scotland

Campaigners were encouraged by the increased recognition of women in certain representational capacities. The Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 had established elected School Boards, based on a comparatively generous franchise and allowing women to participate both as voters and Board members

Significantly, female involvement in child welfare was considered to be wholesome and non-contentious

In 1873 Jane Arthur, of Paisley,

was pioneering as the first woman in Scotland to stand successfully for election – eliciting the comment from one intrigued Glasgow journalist that School Boards were a sphere "in which ladies can be useful and do some service to the State,

**'School boards could be a useful role for the ladies without losing the bloom of their womanhood'**

without in any way sacrificing the bloom of their womanhood".

Although she was far from typical, Arthur's example helped to legitimise the notion of women as politically responsible. A further important step forward was made from 1882, when women were enfranchised for municipal elections

In practice, only unmarried women and widows could take advantage of this new right – although their numbers were significant, especially in middle-class urban districts

Leading on from that, the right to

stand and be elected to county councils and parish councils was achieved in 1895.

However, women were excluded from standing as town councillors until 1907, and in Scotland their presence in the municipal corridors

of power remained a rarity, even in supposedly more enlightened times after 1918. Nevertheless,

back in the 1880s the granting of the municipal vote inspired suffrage activists with the idea that they could take the campaign forward into the Parliamentary arena

In 1887 the Scottish National Demonstration of Women attracted a numerous, overwhelmingly-female crowd to Glasgow's St Andrew's Halls, where Priscilla McLaren used suitably fiery language to describe the 'kindling' of the franchise debate

The essentially middle-class reform movement went on to



influence powerful institutions, such as the Convention of Royal Burghs, which in 1887 agreed to endorse the women's campaign

There was even support from the Conservative Associations of Scotland, albeit for a limited form of taxpayers' suffrage, which would reinforce the selective, propertied criteria for voting

Full adult suffrage was a controversial concept, associated with socialist-inspired organisations like the Scottish Labour Party, founded in 1888. The SLP merged with the Independent Labour Party in 1894, and the ILP was thereafter a major disseminator of suffragist propaganda, contributing energetically to the 'Votes for Women' campaign of the 1900s.

The formidable Pankhurst family of Manchester had gained a political grounding in the ILP before going on to create the militant Women's Social and Political Union in 1903. Scots were comparatively slow to respond to the challenge of the WSPU, and it was not until 1908 that the Scottish headquarters opened in Glasgow.

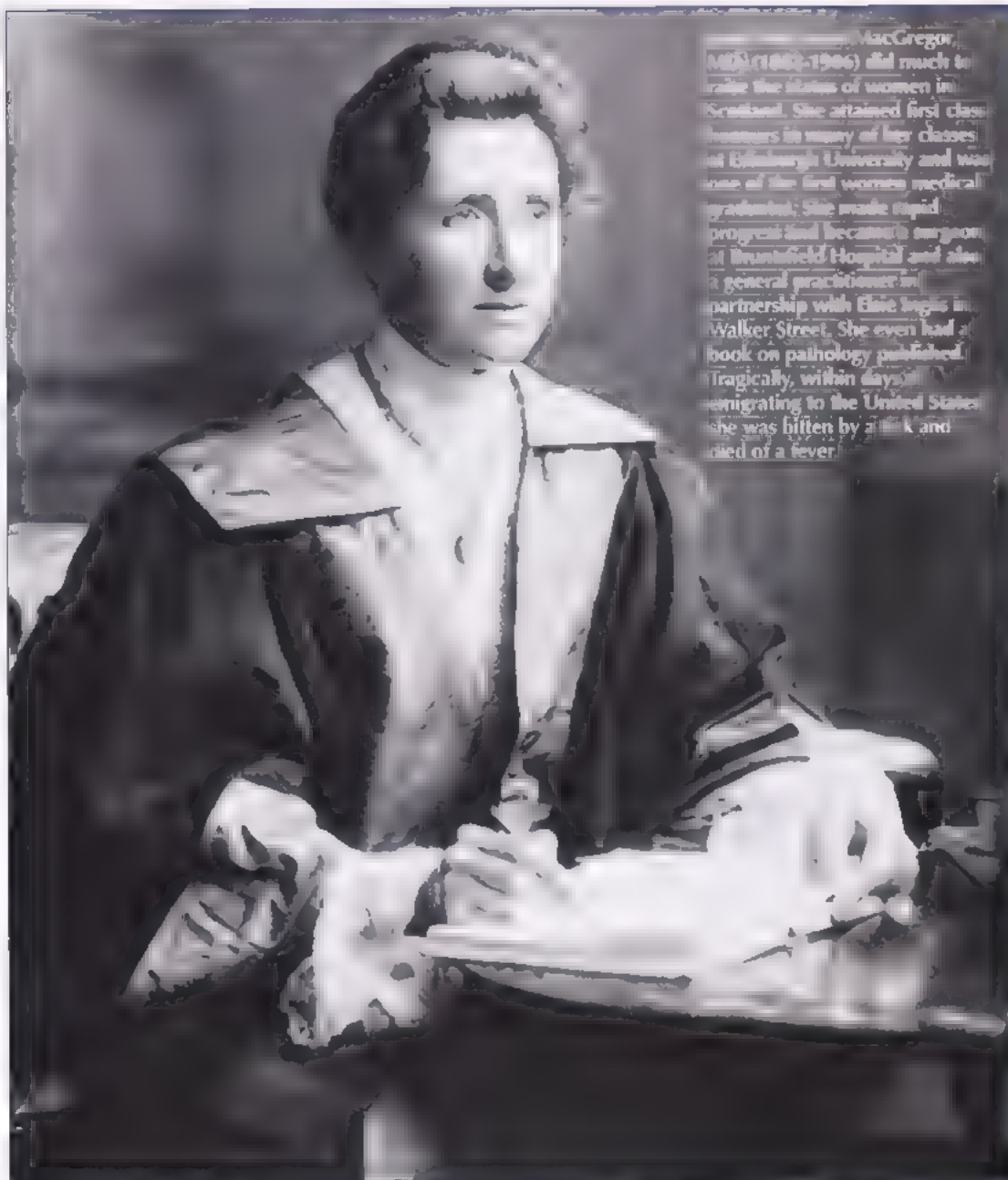
Undoubtedly, militancy was fuelled by the landslide election victory of the Liberal Government in 1906. While Cabinet ministers advocated a range of radical causes, particularly welfare reform, they proved to be dilatory about the franchise issue.

WSPU activists believed in exerting maximum pressure to expose what they saw as Liberal hypocrisy and convince public opinion that their cause was just.

They resorted to often outrageous tactics to gain publicity. The women provoked arrest and then went on hunger strike, the prison authorities (notoriously in Perth Jail) forcibly feeding them in a violent process which suffragettes equated with torture. Between 1912 and 1914, Scotland was scarred by the effects of suffragette sabotage.

Countless pillar boxes were tampered with, arson was attempted at Kelso and Ayr racecourses, a bomb exploded at Glasgow's Kibble Palace, an elegant glasshouse in the Botanic Gardens. There was even an attack on that potent symbol of Scottish machismo, the Wallace Monument at Stirling.

By no means all campaigners approved of such destruction,



Dr Elsie Inglis, M.D. (1862-1906) did much to raise the status of women in Scotland. She attained first class honours in many of her classes at Edinburgh University and was one of the first women medical graduates. She made rapid progress and became a surgeon at Bruntsfield Hospital and also a general practitioner in partnership with Elsie Inglis in Walker Street. She even had a book on pathology published. Tragically, within days of emigrating to the United States she was bitten by a tick and died of a fever.

perceiving it as counter-productive, but it certainly worked as a device for grabbing headlines.

With the outbreak of war in August 1914 militant activity ceased, and there was fragmentation of the suffrage movement as a result of differing attitudes to the conflict.

In Scotland some erstwhile activists threw themselves into the war effort, especially medical support. For instance, Dr Elsie Inglis, the founder of the Scottish Women's Suffrage Federation, established the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France and Serbia.

On the other hand, suffragists such as Janie Allan and Helen

Crawford had strong pacifist and socialist convictions. In 1916 Crawford was instrumental in forming the Women's Peace Crusade at a rally in Glasgow, on the premise that "militarism is a futility and sham and brings nothing but destruction."

The war generally cut across previous political attitudes because of the Coalition Government's promise of greater egalitarianism and opportunity.

Electoral reform was part of an ambitious post-war reconstruction programme.

Accordingly, in 1918 women were given the franchise, although the

weight of numbers would overwhelm the male element, meant that this was restricted to those over 30.

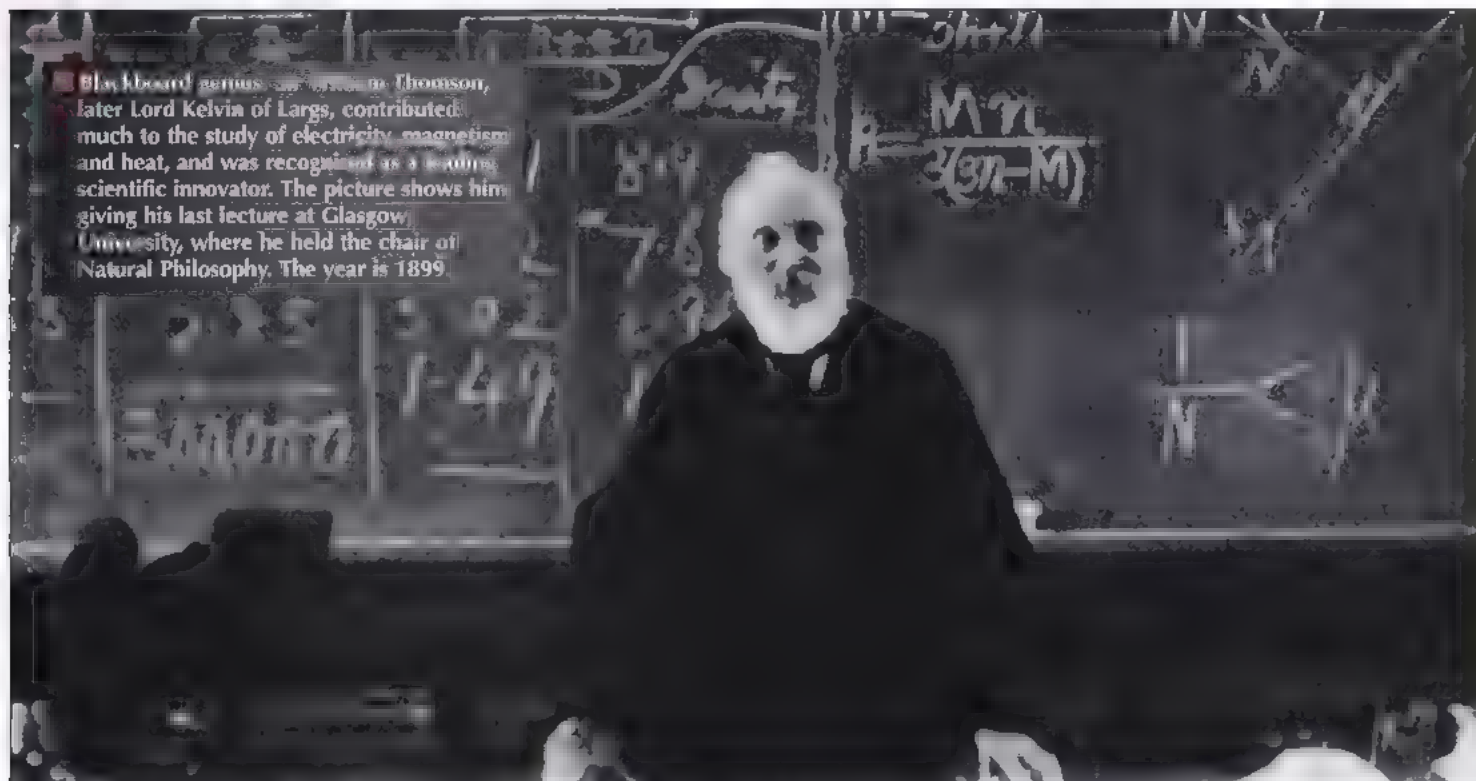
The first woman to stand for Parliament was Mrs James Watson, who became the first female MP, representing Kinross and West Perthshire.

Despite Scotland's reputation for 'Red Clydeside' politics, there were no other Scottish women MPs returned prior to 1928, when electoral parity was at last implemented and men and women over 21 obtained equal franchises.

**Sometimes the tactics were outrageous and militancy was fuelled by the Liberal landslide victory in 1906**



# Brain-power Scots who progressed the world



Blackboard genius William Thomson, later Lord Kelvin of Largs, contributed much to the study of electricity, magnetism and heat, and was recognised as a leading scientific innovator. The picture shows him giving his last lecture at Glasgow University, where he held the chair of Natural Philosophy. The year is 1899.

In 1876, in Philadelphia, Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922) displayed the first telephone at the Centennial Exhibition that celebrated the American Revolution. Bell had left Scotland with his family at the age of 23 but the invention that was to inaugurate the modern world had very Scottish roots. What gave Bell the edge over his competitors in the race to develop the telephone was his profound understanding of the workings of the human voice, an understanding based on the work of his father, Melville Bell, a professor of elocution and the developer of a universal alphabet for all human languages.

Melville Bell's work was the product of that long Scottish engagement with the issue of dialects and their relationship to standard languages, and his son was to become expert in pronouncing any sound from any human language on the basis of notations devised by his father and eventually published in 1867 as 'Visible Speech: The Science of Universal Alphabet'.

From this family concern, the young

Alexander Bell became obsessed with the possibility of turning the sounds of the human voice into electrical vibrations.

By 1880, after a long court battle over patents, the Bell Telephone Company wrested control of the new technology from the Western Union telegraphic company and began the vast expansion which saw it dominate American telecommunications throughout the 20th century.

In the same years that Bell was struggling to fulfil the possibilities of the electrical transmission of the human voice, another Edinburgh-born scientist, James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879), was completing a work which was to underpin the future development of a much wider range of communications.

Maxwell's 'A Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism', published in 1873, provided the fundamental mathematical formulae 'the Maxwell equations' - which explain electromagnetic radiation and so made possible radio and television in the 20th century.

Maxwell's work became as

fundamental to modern physics as Newton's had been in the previous two centuries and the problems which his work posed about the general structure of the physical universe could only be solved by Einstein's development of relativity theory.

Indeed, Einstein is the only modern scientist whose work is generally thought to equal Clerk Maxwell's.

Two such major contributions to the development of the modern world, themselves founded on the earlier work of William Thomson, Lord Kelvin - who made his fortune out of patents in telegraphy and who was involved in the laying of the first transatlantic telegraph cable in 1866 - would have marked out the 1870s as a decade of major Scottish contribution to science and technology.

But they are simply indicators of the vast intellectual energy with which Scottish society was consumed in the period between 1870 and 1900, an energy whose unlikely sources were in the religious disputes of the 1840s that led to the Disruption of the Scottish Church in 1843.

The Disruption set plainly before

Scottish society the issue of the relevance of specifically Scottish traditions to modern Christianity, and did so at the very time when Darwin's

'The Origin of Species' was setting the whole Christian conception of the world in doubt.

In the same years between Clerk Maxwell's publication of his 'Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism' and Bell's demonstration of the telephone, William Robertson Smith, a young professor at the University of Aberdeen and a minister of the Free Church, was dismissed from his post as a result of publishing explanations of the history of the Bible and of the development of religion based on the nature of the human mind, like all other aspects of the natural world, 'evolves'.

Robertson Smith was an outstanding Arabist and biblical scholar and was offered a professorship in Cambridge on the basis of his defence of his conception of the evolution of religion, published in 1876 and 1877 in 'The Old Testament in the Jewish Church' and 'The Prophets of Israel'.

He was also appointed editor of the ninth edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, which appeared from 1875







# Never Land escape for a tragic writer



■ Portrait of a writer: James Matthew Barrie is caught in pensive mood by Sir William Nicholson.

The author of *Peter Pan* was engulfed by death, and his world of confusing relationships made him a sad figure. Yet Barrie's work reflects a depth and meaning far beyond the popular image of a forever boy

**P**eter Pan is one of the most successful plays and certainly one of the most potent myths of the 20th century – celebrated in film, in animation, in Disneyland rides and revived yearly as a pantomime.

And yet its author, James Barrie, is almost always recalled only to be condemned. Condemned for having initiated, with his *Auld Licht Idylls* of 1888, the Kailyard school of writing which is held to have been responsible for the most unacceptable presentations of Scotland. Or condemned for the strange sickness of his relationship with his mother, about whom he wrote a cloyingly sentimental biography, *Margaret Ogilvy*, in 1896.

He was condemned for his relationship with his wife, a marriage which was, apparently, never consummated. And he was condemned for his relationship with other people's children, with whom he would become obsessed, playing the role of inventor of a secret world which they and he could share.

*Peter Pan* was written for the Llewellyn Davies children, whom Barrie had started meeting in Kensington Gardens and with whom he became so friendly that he



virtually displaced their father in his own home. The desire to re-enter the world of childhood which this suggests was enacted in the story of Peter, the boy who never grew up and has been read as symptomatic of Barrie's presentation of Scotland as a country and culture which cannot grow up.

His last story, for instance, Farewell Miss Julia, is about a minister falling in love with a woman left over from the Jacobite Uprising. The sense of nostalgia from the modern world is an alternative, earlier and kinder world, whether the world of childhood or the world of an earlier historical period. It has been the target of all those who think that there is something immature in late-19th-century Scottish culture.

Barrie's most powerful autobiographical novel, Tommy, published in 1904, is in the adjective of a problem which Barrie poses to modern audiences. It is 'sentimental', even 'sentimental' for Barrie, something quite out of modern usage.

And yet Barrie was among the most successful writers of his generation. Having come from a weaver's family in the classic 'lad o' parts' of the steps of his older brother Alexander, who had been a schoolteacher, Barrie graduated in 1878.

After a period as a writer and journalist on the *North British Journal*, he quickly established himself as a writer for some of the leading journals and magazines. By 1885, determined to make his mark by his writing skills.

It was in this period that many of the Scottish writers were to be the defining work of the 'Kailyard' movement. By the time he was 45, however, and before *Peter Pan*, he was not only the most successful dramatist of his generation

with plays such as *Quentin Durward* (1901) and *The Admirable Crichton* (1902) – he was also a best-selling novelist.

*The Little Minister* (1891), for instance, started as a novel, became a successful play and then, in several versions, silent and talking, became a Hollywood film, most famously with Katherine Hepburn in the lead role in 1936.

His work was particularly

■ The musical *Peter Pan* with George Cole and Lulu and (below right) *Peter Pan* a stone boy for eternity.

successful in the United States, where, perhaps, the innovations and expense – of his stage techniques were more appreciated than they were in London. For *Peter Pan*, for instance, an entirely new form of harness had to be invented to allow Peter and the children to 'fly' freely around the stage.

The success of his art was, however, matched by the tragedies of his life. In the early days of his success, he gave his sister's fiancé a horse in order to help him get around his far-flung parish in the north of Scotland. Days before the marriage was due the horse threw its rider, who died before the marriage could take place.

Barrie's other sister, who had nursed his mother through her old age and illnesses, died suddenly a few days before his mother herself died. And Arthur Llewellyn Davies, for whose children *Peter Pan* was written, died of cancer in 1908. Their mother also died of cancer in 1910, leaving Barrie as their guardian.

The oldest of the boys, George, of

whom Barrie had been most fond, was to die in the First World War and his brother was to drown at Oxford shortly after the War.

The writer who had invented the mythic figure who could never die was to be surrounded by the deaths of his closest acquaintances while he himself lived on till 1937.

*Peter Pan*, however, is far from the children's fantasy that it is usually presented as being. It is an ironic analysis of the nature of the modern world and the forces that drive it.

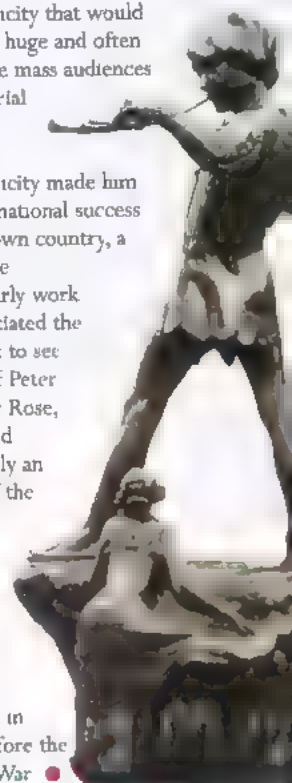
The 'Never Land' to which Peter takes the children is a place where we see, in disguised form, the very real effects of imperialism and colonialism upon which modern British society was built.

In *Peter's* relationship with the children we see enacted the psychological forces of childhood sexuality and the Oedipus complex which Freud was, at that very time, codifying. And in the play with different levels of fiction, Barrie was exploring some of the techniques which have become typical of the postmodernism of more recent

writers such as Alasdair Gray and Muriel Spark.

Barrie wrote his work with a surface simplicity that would appeal to the huge and often newly-literate mass audiences of the industrial world. His carefully crafted simplicity made him first an international success then, in his own country, a critical failure.

Barrie's early work may have initiated the Kailyard, but to see the author of *Peter Pan*, of *Mary Rose*, of *Tommy* and *Grizell* as only an inhabitant of the Kailyard is to devalue the real nature of Scotland's literary achievement in the years before the First World War. ■





# At the sharp end of

■ It was in April, 1857, when Sepoy troops (Indian troops officered by Europeans) of the Bengal Army mutinied against British rule. The 42nd Regiment of Foot under the command of Sir Colin Campbell marched to relieve Cawnpore and then, in 1858, stormed the siege at Lucknow. The painting is by Edinburgh artist Orlando Norie.



**B**y 1815 Britain had emerged, not only as one of the most important countries determining the balance of power in Europe, but also as the nation with the single largest global Empire.

While this Empire was to prove resilient enough to survive the carnage of 1914-18, and even to continue its expansion for a short period thereafter, the hundred years between Waterloo and the First World War were to be the golden

age of British and thus Scottish imperialism.

The Empire may now, perhaps, be an unfashionable subject, yet it nonetheless remains important that the sheer scale of Scotland's involvement within 19th-century British imperialism be understood and acknowledged, not least in terms of how this process influenced and shaped the Scots sense of their Scottish and British identities.

In one way, the country's imperial

experience in this period was a continuation of developments from the second half of the 18th century.

The outward flow of Scotland's population to the colonies continued, for example, as did the rapid commercial development of the west coast of Scotland, and the Clyde basin in particular.

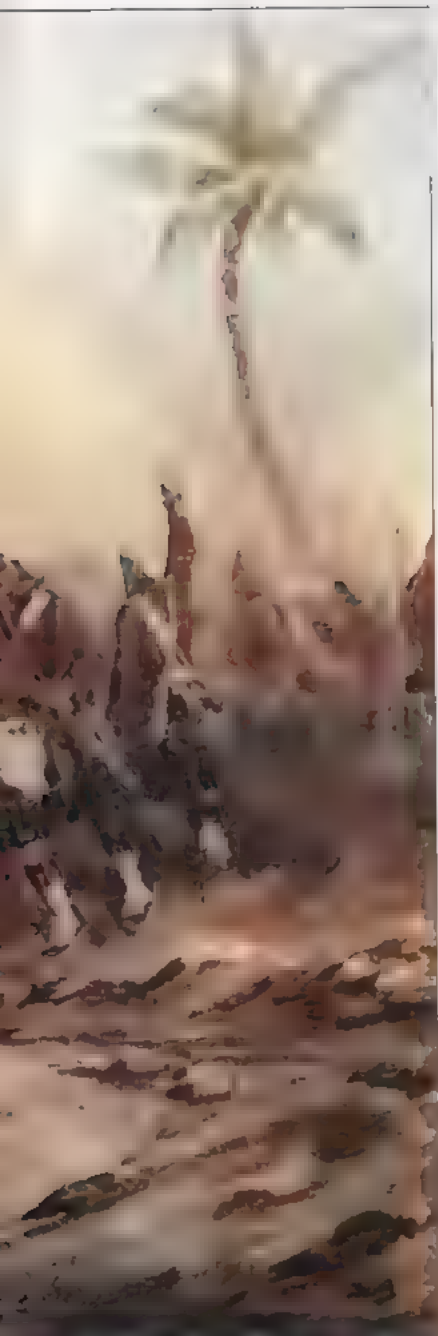
However, while it is certainly worth remembering that much of the country's impressive 19th-century economic performance was built on the back of earlier colonial trades

like tobacco and sugar, it is also the case that Scotland experienced substantial imperial diversification and expansion.

The older emigrant communities of the Canadian prairies and the United States undoubtedly continued to attract Scots in large numbers, but they also faced increasing competition from new colonies like Australia and New Zealand by the 1840s. In 1839 Melbourne was described as "almost altogether a Scotch settlement, and the people



# building an Empire



■ The 'Saviours of India' they were called: men of the 78th Regiment of Foot who took part in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny of 1857. On the right of the picture is Private Henry Ward wearing his Victoria Cross won at Lucknow.

**As the British Empire developed to reach its zenith before the Great War, attracting both criticism and praise for its role, Scots were in the thick of it in all the far-flung corners**

Scotland Moreover, despite the understandable predominance of evicted Highlanders within perceptions of 19th century Scottish emigration, most of the Otago people actually came from the Lowlands and the Lothians, in particular

In almost all sectors of British imperial endeavour the Scots were there and playing a conspicuous role

After 1850, right through until the 20th century, one in three of all governors appointed to administer Britain's colonies were Scots, many from established aristocratic families such as the Earls of Aberdeen and the Earls of Elgin

The military is another area with which the Scots are associated Yet in spite of the almost indelible image of the Highland soldier as the most prominent and hardy defender of the Empire, Scots were actually

under represented in the ordinary rank and file of the Victorian army

Where the Scots tended to be concentrated in the military, however, was at the officer level Indeed, two of the four most prominent commanders who oversaw the British army's campaigns during the 1857 revolt in India were Scots Sir Colin Campbell from Glasgow and Brigadier-General James Neill from Ayrshire

That said, it was not just Scotland's upper classes that were involved in suppression Scottish regiments like the 78th Ross-shire and 93rd Sutherland Highlanders played a noticeable role in atrocities committed by the British during the Indian revolt

Beneath the administrative and military elites, Scottish commercial companies were also prominent in certain areas Given the Clyde's

own development as a world centre of shipbuilding, which itself was partly as a result of the huge demand for maritime tonnage to link the Empire's reliable and cheap markets, it is not surprising that Scottish companies did well in shipping

Typical in this respect was the Allan family from Ayrshire, whose shipping operation neatly illustrates how commercial links in Scotland were used as a springboard for wider Imperial success

The company used its contacts in the Scottish iron industry which, from the mid 1840s to mid 1860s was producing the cheapest pig iron in the world, to ensure low costs for the construction of its fleet of Trans Atlantic steamers.

The result was that by the later 1860s the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company, as the Allans' operation had become known, ►

are so far as I can see at least  
Scotch in their habits and manner

By 1900 Scots made up a  
15 per cent of the population of  
Australia that had not actually  
born there and had only recently  
arrived The experience of the  
Otago settlement on the South  
Island of New Zealand reveals the  
broadening scope of Scottish  
emigration into the Empire.

It was a Free Church-sponsored  
settlement with over 80 per cent of  
the initial emigrants coming from



## The Empire legitimated the Union, which had been accepted in order to end poverty

► dominated Canadian shipping routes

A particularly prominent example of the country's expansion in imperial activities was in missionary work

By 1821 the Kirk had established its right to act without Anglican supervision on the Indian Subcontinent. By 1830 the Scottish Mission was established in Calcutta, a less romantic but nonetheless important indicator of the type of expansionist religious belief in Scotland that was later to be personified by the archetypal Victorian missionary, David Livingston.

Although Livingston was, in fact, employed by Missionary authorities in London, it says something about the intense desire on the part of Scottish society to be associated with Britain's imperial success that he was lionised north of the Border as evidence of the country's contribution to the Empire.

These examples of Scottish imperialism are, of course, only amongst some of the most obvious. Given the role of sheep in the eviction of Highlanders it is surely ironic that Scots were at the forefront of large-scale sheep ranching in Australia and New Zealand from the 1850s onwards.

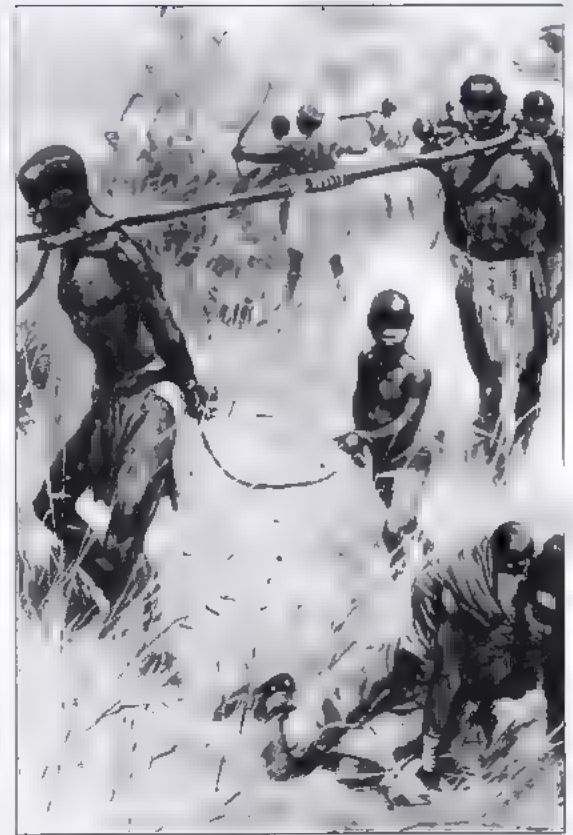
Similarly, and despite its own industrial development, Scotland was a hugely-important source of credit and capital for the emerging colonies. Yet, in a sense, it can become all too easy to reduce the country's participation in the Empire down to a series of examples that simply glorify Scottish cannyism, their ability to pull themselves up by their boot strings and their military ability.

Scots were implicated in the brutality, bigotry and racism of Empire, as well as those areas, such as missionary activity, where Victorians undoubtedly believed they were doing good. What is less clear, but is now being increasingly investigated, is the impact of this highly successful global empire upon Scotland's identity.

Traditionally, the Empire has been seen, with very good reason, as



■ These lantern slide illustrations show the interest in Dr David Livingston's travels in Africa as a missionary. He was a powerful campaigner against the 'broken-heartedness' of free men who were turned into slaves.



cementing and strengthening the domestic Union between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom

The Union gave access to the Empire's dependable export markets that soaked up the goods produced by Scotland's textile, chemical, iron and steel industries.

By clearly assisting in Scotland's emergence as one of the most industrialised and richest societies on the planet by the later 19th century, the Empire undoubtedly legitimated the Union which, after all, in Scottish memory had been reluctantly accepted in order to end the country's poverty.

This argument is undeniably correct in its basic premise, but that has not prevented a considerable amount of debate and disagreement over whether the Empire consolidated a sense of British identity alone, or whether it also helped sustain and even modernise Scottish identity.

There is, in fact, considerable evidence to support the idea that, while certainly never stimulating any nationalistic sense of separateness, the Empire did enable the Scots to feel renewed pride in their churches, universities, and their military prowess.

Pride, in other words, in certain features of Scotland's own domestic society. There was a palpable and

popular imperial culture in Scotland that undoubtedly stressed the country's ability to help build and defend the Empire.

Indeed, Scots quite deliberately portrayed themselves and, interestingly, were widely seen by others as endowed with Empire-building skills through the effect of social conditions north of the Border, religious inclination and education.

Much of this was, of course, myth and self-delusion, but what is perhaps more interesting is that Scots undoubtedly peddled the myth and were keen that others bought into it.

At home, while the Scots used the Empire to reconfigure aspects of their identity, a similar process occurred abroad. Where compatible with their sense of Britishness, Scots actively sought to retain elements of their Scottishness.

The Madras Scottish Society, for example, debated the Highland Clearances, while monuments to Wallace and Burns were erected in the Empire's main cities. In the Victoria region of Australia, meanwhile, between 1906-10, 17 Caledonian or Scottish societies were established.

Ultimately, then, the Empire was absolutely central to Scotland's sense of itself through the era from 1815-

1914. This was because empire could be all things to all men and, no doubt, women also.

It certainly helped sustain and develop a sense of Scottishness, but did it in a way that also confirmed Britishness.

Indeed, what was noticeable about the country's 19th century identity, as expressed through empire, was the stress put upon the fact that Scottishness complemented rather than competed with Britishness or, indeed, even Englishness.

Instead, Scotland's imperial performance was very much seen as enhancing and enriching the imperial project as a whole. Scottishness was used to reinforce the Britishness of the Empire.

Indeed, when, in the 1890s, the Scottish press revealed that treaties by the imperial authorities gave the title 'England', a campaign in Scotland to insert 'Britain' in its place received over 100,000 signatures.

If that does not demonstrate the Empire's importance to Scotland's sense of its various identities, be they Scottish, British or Imperial, it is worth reflecting on the fact that the same number of Scots, 100,000, were to die in the First World War defending the national interest of Britain and its Empire. ●



# Hard toil for women bound to the farm



■ Bringing in the harvest: horse-power as well as women and children were used in the fields at a rate at least half that of a male farm servant.

Lifestyles as well as methods were changing. 'Bondager' wives found it tough and sought jobs elsewhere. It meant 'good, stout women' for the fields were in short supply...

While the concept of 'the global economy' is most often associated with modern times, those who worked the Scottish soil as long ago as 1800 found their livelihoods inextricably linked to European politics even then

This was nothing to do with EC regulations or quotas, but rather was the direct result of Britain's lengthy involvement in the Napoleonic Wars

Large-scale military campaigns rarely fail to create an enormous

demand for food, and often cut off the supply of imports which normally act as a check against price rises within the domestic economy

This principle was seen in almost classic form during the early 19th century which proved to be a boom period for Scotland's lairds and farmers

The inevitable depression which came hard on the heels of peace in 1815 brought a stark warning that rural economics were always going to be precarious, but the speed with which Scotland's Lowland farmers

were able to claw their way out of the abyss of collapsed prices was proof indeed that the new ways were working

The 'Improvements' had been underway since the second half of the previous century, but it took the encouragement of the wartime price boom for the system to be finally welcomed into every parish south and east of the Highland divide (as well as a sizeable per centage of those further north and west)

By the early decades of the 19th century the vision of the leading ►



Farm servants or 'hinds' agreed that wives, sisters or other females of their acquaintance would provide work on demand

► Improvers had been realised. The Lowland Scottish countryside had been transformed from a network of local subsistence economies into a well oiled production line, designed to satisfy the collective stomach of the new urban nation

The labour which worked this production line was now organised according to the same principles as those which operated in the growing number of 'manufactories' emerging in the towns and cities of the central belt. The old 'ferm towns' communities of tenants, cottars and a few craft workers were now gone, replaced by individual farm holdings held by a single tenant.

These tenants (predominantly, although by no means exclusively, male) employed a hierarchically organised workforce who were paid in various combinations of board, kind and cash

Those workers who were taken on full time were classed as farm servants and were normally given a six month contract or 'fee' at an agreed wage which included on-site accommodation

Those who were either unable or unwilling to commit to a full term with one employer made their living as day labourers. In periods of high prices this was by no means an unattractive option, for a healthy demand for their labour enabled them to command higher wages than their full time colleagues.

Nonetheless, the availability of work came and went with the rise and fall of the market and in times of depression the labourers tended to be the most depressed of all

While these were the general principles which emerged within Lowland farming at this time there is no doubt that the details of the agricultural infrastructure continued to vary according to local and regional preferences and

circumstance. By the 1820s, the wartime clamour to bring every spare acre under wheat for maximum profit had given way to a more controlled approach to land use policy

With the exception of the south-east and the odd pocket of prime land elsewhere such as in the Carse of Gowrie, farmers had come to realise that wheat does not grow very well here anyway, and through a combination of trial and error and scientific reasoning, began to find out the best and most sustainable mode of production for their own localities.

In Galloway and Ayrshire the tendency was towards relatively small, family run farms which concentrated their efforts on dairy production. The local climate and terrain were well suited to a pastoral emphasis, and the region was ideally

placed to take advantage of the insatiable demands of the Clydeside population for such staples as butter and cheese

In the North East, the pattern of production was rather more varied. On the more sheltered parts of the Moray coast, barley and oats grew well enough to be commercially viable, while further south in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Angus, the rearing of beef cattle became the local specialty, culminating in the spectacular success of Hugh Watson and William McCombie whose breeding expertise gave rise to the most famous beef supplier in the world, the Aberdeen Angus

The jewel in the crown of Scottish farming was to be found much further south, however, for it was from the counties of East Lothian and Roxburgh that the country took

its lead. This was Scotland, where wheat was grown on large, high yielding farms up to 600 acres

Here the traditional system of agriculture were manifested most starkly in the 'bondager' system, where servants or 'hinds' were employed on condition that they would provide the labour for the employer's wife, sister or other female acquaintance on demand.

The bondager was accommodated in the hind's tied cottage (married couples therefore being preferred) and was obliged to undertake work in the fields as required by the employer.

While dissatisfaction with this system through the second half of the 19th century led to its eventual demise, it clung on in places into the early years of the 20th century and there is little doubt that the

■ East Lothian was an attraction for late 19th-century artists who took an interest in the vanishing peasantry. But 'Pastoral' by Sir James Guthrie gives little indication of the hard life experienced down on the farm by the workers.





bondager, with her distinctive dress and bonnet, became a celebrated icon of southern Scottish rural identity and female working pride

The practice of employing women as farm labourers and servants was certainly not confined to the south-west, for in a survey conducted in 1867, 97 per cent of respondents representing virtually every part of Scotland said that women were regularly employed as farm workers in their area

Most of these women were not bondagers, however, for they were employed directly as individuals and not as an attachment to a male hand

By 1871, women constituted at least a quarter of the agricultural workforce in Scotland, although this figure is undoubtedly a conservative one as it does not include wives and daughters of smaller farmers who may not have been officially employed, but who were nonetheless vital to the survival of the smallholding

The roles and responsibilities of women farm workers differed from area to area and were determined to a large extent by the nature of the dominant localised production emphasis

In the south west, for instance, dairy maids proliferated while in arable districts the women folk spent most of their time tending to the crops in the fields. In some areas, the versatility of the 'in and out' girls was in demand, for it allowed their employers to use them for domestic duties or field work as required

The one thing all these women had in common was the fact that they were paid significantly less than their male colleagues. On average, a full time female farm worker earned around half of a male servant's wage, although in some cases this fell to as low as 35 per cent

It is hardly surprising, then, that as the century wore on and employment opportunities for women opened up elsewhere, fewer individuals were prepared to continue to toil in the fields.

Reports from recruiting fairs from the 1870s begin to show wages rising slightly as demand began to outstrip supply and farmers became almost desperate to find 'good, stout women' for field work

A Royal Commission on Labour, reporting in 1894, declared that regular outdoor women workers were 'scarcely heard of' by this time and one Perthshire employer remarked he now had to go to the Western Isles to find such a labour supply which a generation earlier



■ Keeping watch on the flock: 'The Shepherd Boy' by Sir James Guthrie.

had been available on his doorstep.

Children, too, played a vital role in the success of 19th century Scottish Lowland farming, for their often hidden contribution to daily and seasonal routines was considerable. The extra income a child could contribute to a family's budget was often enough to encourage parents to lure their offspring away from the classroom and point them towards the fields. Herding, turnip thinning, weeding, stone gathering, potato lifting and a host of other low skill tasks provided plenty work for children as young as eight years old

This, of course, was a situation which drew much consternation from the teaching profession who complained bitterly that from April to October their classes were virtually empty. A browse through mid-19th century school log books reveals page after page of explanations for poor attendances:

*"The elder scholars are now engaged at work. And a number of those under 13 are kept at home to herd or nurse or to work at the oak peeling which has now commenced"*

*"Attendance reduced this week on account of planting potatoes in the fields"*

*"Attendance today reduced by a*

*ploughing match in the neighbourhood"*.

These entries were replicated in school logs throughout the country, and played a major part in the decision to introduce compulsory schooling in Scotland from 1872

Even then special dispensation was given to rural schools to allow children to be absent for agricultural work in certain circumstances, a feature of the new law which clearly underlines the importance of child labour to the 19th-century farming infrastructure

If war in Europe in the early 19th century acted as a catalyst for rural change, so too did that 100 years later, for as Lewis Grassie Gibbon captured so poignantly, the First World War marked the sunset of a traditional way of life centred around people and horse power

Labour saving innovations such as Patrick Bell's mechanical reaper and the steam powered threshing machine were certainly in common use long before 1914, but when the dust of four years of hellish upheaval had settled, the tractor engine had arrived

There began yet another new dawn in the story of rural Scotland. ●

## TIMELINE

**1868**

Second Reform Act increases number of urban male voters from 54,000 to 154,000.

**1876**

'Second Enlightenment' scientist Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.

**1881**

Workers on the Clyde produce more tons of ships than the Tyne and Wear put together.

**1892**

Scots socialist visionary and Labour pioneer, Keir Hardie, wins the London constituency of West Ham.

**1900**

Scots make up 15 per cent of first generation immigrants into Australia.

**1904**

J M Barrie publishes Peter Pan, whose phenomenal success makes him a household name.

**1906**

The Liberals win parliamentary general elections with a landslide victory.

**1907**

Women permitted to stand as town councillors 25 years after gaining municipal voting rights.

**1908**

Golden age of pioneering Scots photographers Wilson & Co. comes to an end.

**1910**

Although gaining ground, Labour fails to make headway in parliamentary elections.

**1912**

Suffragette sabotage pushes the issue of female voting rights further up the political agenda.

**1918**

Women over 30 given right to vote in parliamentary election.



# Images of wonder by a pencil of light



■ The way we were: horse power in action in Aberdeen around 1885 at the junction of Union Street and Holburn Street.

**Wow! The likenesses were almost magical and Scotland's imagination was caught. Soon 'photographic artists' were everywhere and business was booming**

France may have invented photography in the 1830s, but Scotland quickly took a leading part in developing it for artistic and commercial purposes, a progress aided by the absence of patent protection north of the Border for some of the important early processes.

Contemporaries were amazed by the likenesses that the camera caught. 'Painted with a pencil of light' was the astonished reaction of one journalist to the photographs he has seen at Mr Edward's studio possibly the first in Scotland – which opened in Glasgow early in 1843.

The new medium became quickly popular and within a decade every Scottish town of any size had its own resident photographer – Edinburgh

had no less than 46 photographic artists – and the photographer's van or tent was becoming a familiar sight at seaside and inland resorts alike during the summer.

Amongst the key figures in the early days were Hill and Adamson, who formed a partnership in 1843 with their studio at Rock House below the Calton Hill in Edinburgh.

Hill, secretary to the Royal Scottish Academy, in his early 40s was primarily a landscape painter, and the much younger Adamson was already alive to the commercial possibilities of portrait photography.

The well-connected Hill found the subjects and the commissions. Adamson looked after the technical side. People came to sit for their portraits, but the pair also went out

and about, no easy undertaking given the weight of their cameras, chemicals and plates, producing a stunning series of documentary style studies of the fishing community at Newhaven.

The figures may look stiff and posed because of the exposure times of several minutes, a problem that was to dog outdoor work, but they were authentic. And where Hill and Adamson led, others followed. The fisherfolk were required coursework for an aspiring photographer in a way that other occupations were not.

Their biggest project, which took over 20 years to complete, was Hill's massive painting of the Free Church ministers who participated in the Disruption.

Hill himself was present when



they walked out of the General Assembly. Hundreds were photographed in groups or individually, a photomontage created and the painting followed at leisure. Indeed, some of those featured were long since dead by the time Hill's final version appeared.

This use of photography as an aid to portraiture was highly significant in the early years. What made it attractive and cheaper was that a subject could come and sit for just a single short session of an hour or so instead of being required for days. It became fashionable to have visiting cards printed for calling on friends, which could be left if someone was at home – the carte de visite.

Very soon the reliability and lower cost brought photography to a much wider public – for family groups, individual studies of civic worthies, ministers and their officebearers, even of dead children as a keepsake.

The photographer became part of any special occasion – the opening of a new building, an engagement, a son going off to the army, an archery contest or a cycling meet, masonic processions and yeomanry parades.

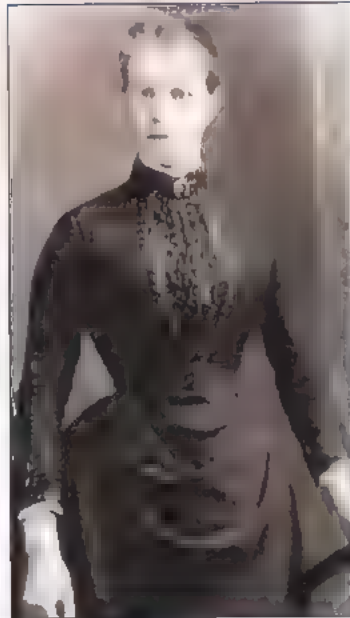
Doctors photographed patients, social theorists examined criminal types, and the Balmoral set and insisted that all subjects and managers be photographed just in case any absconded with funds and needed to be tracked down.

Studio work – with a painted landscape as a backdrop – was the backbone of most businesses. Summer and winter scenes in the early days; the possibilities for outdoor work were endless. But changes in light, thanks to cloud and rain and wind, were major problems and any movement led to blurring.

Midges in the Highlands made the preparation of sensitised plates a nightmare. Although the so-called instantaneous photograph of the 1850s was far from that, exposure times did shorten radically and commercial firms like those of Wilson at Aberdeen and Valentine of Dundee moved to exploit the opportunities offered.

Their eye was on the growing tourist market, being opened up by Thomas Cook whom they may well have met on their travels, offering albums with text, single prints, scraps that could be pasted in the traveller's souvenir album, and stereo views – side-by-side pictures for which a special viewer was necessary.

George Washington Wilson was particularly successful, aided by his association with Queen Victoria for



■ The age of the family portrait: these images are (l to r) – a mother and daughter from Perth; a corsetted young lady by Prophet of Dundee dated 1890; and a widow photographed by Watson of Stonehaven.

whom he did much work at Balmoral – enabling him to call himself 'photographer to the Queen'. Wilson ('GWW' are the initials to be found along the bottom of his studies) was the second son of a poor Banffshire crofter, whose artistic skill led him to Edinburgh to train as a portrait painter.

But while there he learned the new art, and on his return to Aberdeen set up a business that was to be one of the largest and best known in Britain, which established an international reputation.

Photographers came from overseas to look through his premises, with its scores of girls carrying the plates to and from the copying frames.

For Wilson, it was to the popular tourist destinations – Edinburgh, the Trossachs and Iona – that he took his

camera in the 1850s and 1860s, and by 1877 his catalogue listed over 5000 views.

Wilson and his sons covered every part of Scotland on the tourist map, and the firm's staff photographers went far afield to satisfy public curiosity. Norman MacLeod, a staff photographer made the difficult trip to St Kilda in the early 1890s. Views in Ireland, North Africa and Australia were also recorded, and many of these were later made into lantern slides, the mainstay of many an educational talk.

Both G.W. Wilson & Co and their great rivals Valentines moved in the later 19th century into the production of postcards, black-and-white, sepia and tinted, as did many others with a growing interest in 'news' as much as scenes and views. Within 48 hours

of Peebles Hydro burning down at night in July, 1905, in a spectacular blaze, local firms had postcards printed of the smouldering ruins. One even went as far as paint in rather unconvincing flames.

The cost and weight of the equipment, the difficulties of developing and printing kept photography for many decades as the preserve of the professionals or those amateurs with means.

The arrival c1890 of Kodak's hand-held camera and a guaranteed network of agencies to develop the film began to change the whole picture. The box brownie was cheap and simple to operate, even for the beginner. 'You press the Button, and we do the rest' was a slogan that sold.

The older Scottish businesses suffered from the masses starting to do their own photos; Valentine & Sons survived, but Wilson & Co did not, going into final liquidation in 1908. Yet the legacy of these Scottish Victorian enterprises is immense, and fortunately now valued.

The world we see through their lens is unbalanced, the sun mostly always shines, ruins and castles predominate rather than slums; people enjoying themselves rather than the miserable poor tend to be centre stage.

Thomas Annan's work in 1868-71 on Glasgow's old closes due for demolition is the exception rather than the rule. But for all the shortcomings and the gaps, what we have is invaluable. The camera does bring the Victorian age light years nearer us than the previous world of the pencil and the painter's brush. ■



■ A hat on every head at Aberdeen's Friday 'Rag Fair' in Castle Street.



# Modern face of an industrial tradition



■ Motherwell Bridge took on one of the greatest challenges of the infant nuclear era by constructing Hunterston power station in Ayrshire.

**T**he date was Saturday, February 5, 1898. In the still formality of a parlour in Motherwell, eight prosperous Victorian businessmen met to finalise the creation of Motherwell Bridge "for the purpose of manufacturing iron and steel bridges and work of a kindred nature." It was a moment which was to shape the engineering history of the world in ways they could never have imagined.

This was a boom time for business in Lanarkshire, the very cradle of Scotland's industrial revolution. And on the back of early success, the company embarked on the new century with the famous railway bridge at Central Station in Glasgow, 'The Hielan' Man's Umbrella'.

The wave of orders continued unabated and with the outbreak of

**Motherwell Bridge is a quality engineering company with its roots deep in the past. It is precisely its long history that has prepared it for the exciting challenges of the 21st century**

war in 1914 the company became deeply involved in the war effort, even manufacturing caterpillar tracks for Allied tanks.

In the 1920s, as part of a new drive forward, the company began to open up overseas markets and by the middle of the decade, foreign enterprises were well established, with offices in South Africa, China, Egypt, New Zealand and Thailand (then known as Siam).

And Motherwell Bridge's involvement in the UK was no less impressive. Having weathered the

depression, by the advent of the Second World War, the company was again in full flow constructing the troop landing craft which saw action on D Day and the famous floating Bailey Bridges for use during the Allied advances. This period also saw Motherwell Bridge appointed by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company as the sole supplier of oil storage vessels in Persia and the beginning of the company's role in opening up the Middle East petrochemical industry.

Throughout the 1940s and 50s the company continued to forge ahead as

they took on the greatest challenges of the infant nuclear era, including the construction of the then biggest nuclear power station in the world at Hunterston.

And looming ever nearer, there was North Sea Oil. In the 1970s, Motherwell Bridge began operating on the Flotta Oil Terminal in Orkney. The first historic landfill of oil in Scotland was about to become a reality.

And then of course, came Sullom Voe.

The largest oil terminal in Europe was being planned for Shetland, and Motherwell Bridge gained a contract there which was to last to this day.

With these contracts, the company finally established itself as a multi disciplinary engineering group of true international standing.

Today, Motherwell Bridge





■ Precision engineering on a grand scale: since its foundation Motherwell bridge has successfully engaged with a number of different sectors.

employs more than 4,000 people in 19 countries world-wide

With an annual turnover in excess of £237m, its business is built on knowledge-led engineering in a diverse range of fields, including aerospace, energy, nuclear, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and rail track maintenance

Motherwell Bridge's engineering prowess can be found in the manufacture of sophisticated alloy components for aircraft and helicopters, in the decommissioning of nuclear power stations and even in the development of weather proof plastic gantries on the Forth Rail Bridge

Its knowledge can be found in a

labour hire and personnel service which provides more than 800 skilled people per week to blue-chip companies in a variety of sectors. In fact, Motherwell Bridge engineers can be found in all corners of the globe from Malta to Brazil, from Ghana to the Dominican Republic involved in a host of demanding engineering projects

But while Motherwell Bridge undoubtedly has an impressive history stretching back over a century, this is a company which looks to the future

Its longevity and strength are built on entrepreneurial flair and an ability to adapt and stay ahead of the rapid pace of change on global markets. Chief executive

John Lumsden epitomises this approach

"The key to our growth has been our ability to constantly build on our engineering expertise and to attack new markets as opportunities become available," he says

The company's strategy is built around four key areas of activity in aerospace, nuclear, engineering services and energy and utilities.

Motherwell Bridge has a strong presence in all these areas and has well-developed plans for expanding its activities in these core sectors

Last year it unveiled a £10m investment programme for its aerospace manufacturing operation

More than 400 skilled personnel, including 200 highly-qualified design engineers, are now working in the expanded aerospace operation for a host of blue-chip companies, including

Boeing, Shorts, Westland, Rolls Royce and BAE Systems

Another growing area for Motherwell Bridge is its work in the nuclear sector. The company recently secured two major nuclear decommissioning and maintenance contracts valued at more than £9m

Motherwell Bridge is also about to begin the second stage of an extensive maintenance programme at both the Hunterston B and Hunkley B nuclear power stations in a contract from British Energy estimated at £5 million

In conjunction with British Energy, Motherwell Bridge has also constructed a state-of-art training facility at its Sunderland base, which includes a full-size mock-up of an Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor and 15,000 square feet of rigs and development cells.

One area in which the company is developing a growing reputation is railtrack maintenance. Over 600 Motherwell Bridge personnel are currently deployed in a variety of projects throughout the UK industry experts expect a major surge of new investment in the UK's rail infrastructure over the next decade

Motherwell Bridge is currently carrying out specialist high-purity pipe work installations within the

semi-conductor and pharmaceutical industries. It has also established a niche in preparing, removing and installing sensitive electronic equipment using the latest air-jack technology

In addition, the company has reinforced its position as the UK market leader in the distribution of compressed air and welding equipment. It began 2000 by winning new orders to the value of £500,000

In the field of energy and utilities Motherwell Bridge has a world-wide reputation for the manufacture of pressure vessels, storage tanks, spheres, heat exchangers and gasholders. The company also has experienced project management teams carrying out turnkey contracts in these sectors around the world

Motherwell Bridge's flair for developing companies was underlined earlier this year when it sold its Information Systems division for £75 million.

Motherwell Bridge combines the reliability and strength of 102 years of tradition with the dynamism, innovation and cutting edge technology required by today's demanding markets

As it enters its third century of trading, Motherwell Bridge Group is well poised to continue this history of expansion and innovation. ●



■ Pride of Orkney: the oil terminal at Flotta is one of the most modern in the world.



**MOTHERWELL  
BRIDGE**



■ India: in the cryogenic field, temperatures drop below 100 degrees centigrade.



■ Art forms: the design of precision parts from Motherwell Bridge adds symmetry and beauty to the power of industry.



# Honoured by 46 VCs ... and stag's antlers



Durrugah in India, West Frontier. The Gordons won two of their Victoria Crosses in the encounter, including one for the heroic Piper Findlater.

**I**t was in 1994 that this regiment was formed, bringing together three famous names from the roll of battles and, if you add them up, to more than a thousand years of tradition. The Highlanders are the amalgamation of the Seaforths, Gordons and Camerons, and in fact the roots of these can be traced through a total of five regiments.

Some regimental names, such as the Ross-shire Buffs and Abercromby's, have now disappeared. But The Highlanders' main origins lie in the three major names they still carry forward from the late 18th century – the Earl of

## The Highlanders are the last of the proud clan regiments who marched with Prince Charlie

Seaforth's 78th Regiment of Highland Foot, raised in 1778, the Cameron Volunteers raised in 1793 by Alan Cameron of Erracht, and the Gordon Highlanders, the 100th (Highland) Regiment of Foot raised in 1794.

There was so much proud tradition in this background that it must have been difficult to bring it all together under one name.

Perhaps there could have been no

other name than The Highlanders, for all of the fighting groups which came together throughout its distinguished past were formed through clan and family associations.

The Highlanders still seek their recruits in the Highlands and Islands, and have the distinction of the only cap-badge motto in Gaelic, *Cuidich'n Rìgh*, which means 'Help the King'.

The origin of this may even go

back to the 13th century and the reign of Alexander III. The king was said to have been hunting as a guest of the MacKenzies of Seaforth when he was knocked from his horse by a stag. One of his young hosts killed the stag and saved the king's life, so the phrase he shouted and a crest showing stag's antlers feature many centuries later on The Highlanders' cap badges.

Not many months after it was raised, Seaforth's regiment was in Edinburgh and was involved in a short-lived mutiny. Ordered to board ship for the Channel Islands, the men refused, believing they had been sold to the East India Company.





■ Seaforths on parade: the old Seaforth Highlanders march in ceremony in this picture from 1938.

and were being taken overseas.

The misunderstanding was eventually sorted out and soon the three Highland regiments were beginning their long and honourable service to the Crown

in India, South Africa, the Crimea and Afghanistan. Each regiment was proud of its roots and its fighting ability. When the Camerons were under the Duke of York's command, they were told

the men were to be drafted into other forces so that the regiment would cease to exist. Cameron of Erracht protested to the Duke who said that if the regiment stayed together, the king would probably send it to the West Indies.

Cameron responded: "You may tell the King that he can send us to hell if he likes, and I'll go at the head – but he daurna draft us."

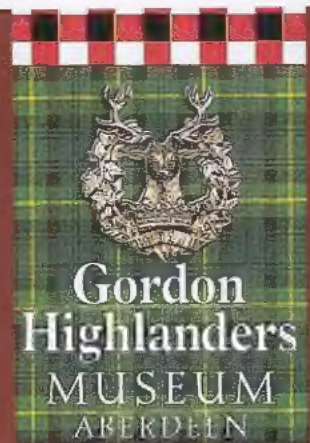
So the Camerons went to the West Indies where their numbers were so seriously depleted in two years by malaria and yellow fever that Cameron had to return to the Highlands and begin recruiting again.

The first major amalgamations occurred in the 1880s. After the Seaforth Highlanders, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Gordon Highlanders distinguished themselves in both world wars, winning a remarkable total of 46 VCs between 1854 and 1944, came a further amalgamation in 1961, producing the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth & Camerons).

Then this regiment joined forces with the Gordons in 1994 to become, simply, The Highlanders. The men are distinguished by the blue hackle worn on their caps. And their long tradition is marked by the fact that these soldiers are entitled to wear three different tartans – MacKenzie of Seaforth, Cameron of Erracht and Gordon. ●



■ Major-General Hector MacDonal rose from the Gordons' ranks to become one of the most distinguished soldiers of his day. After rumours about his private life he died by his own revolver.



## Treasure-house packed with 200 years of history

**A**t the Gordon Highlanders museum in Aberdeen, the compelling and dramatic story of one of the British Army's most famous regiments comes alive through the lives of its outstanding personalities and of the kilted soldiers of the North-East of Scotland who filled its ranks.

The spectacular exhibition includes interactive displays with state-of-the-art touch screens, allowing exploration of the deeds and values which made the regiment great.

A unique collection of the Regiment's finest treasures gathered over two centuries includes a remarkable display of Victoria Crosses. A fascinating selection of 'hands-on' exhibits allows closer study.

Stunning audio-visual and interactive presentations meanwhile convey the story of 'the Gordons' in all its colour and incident.

The museum also includes strikingly detailed life-size and scale reproductions of some of the Regiment's finest moments in battle.

Complementing the museum is an excellent tea-room, shop and beautiful gardens.

For opening times contact:  
The Gordon Highlanders  
Museum, St. Lukes, Viewfield  
Road, Aberdeen AB15 7XH  
Tel: 01224 311 200  
Fax: 01224 319 323



# Golden days when steam was the king



**Glasgow was centre of the locomotive industry with more than 2,000 employed in the huge Springburn works. Sadly it is now only a memory, but reminders of those glory days remain, discovers biker historian David Ross**

**T**hinking of the Empire when it was at its height, I am minded of the time of the steam locomotive, and the network of railway lines spreading across the face of the planet. Glasgow and Edinburgh were first linked by railway in 1841-42. As the line approached Glasgow's Queen Street Station, it went through a country village named Springburn, then began a long incline down through a tunnel to take it beneath the Forth and Clyde canal.

It had originally been planned to take the new railway over the top of the canal on a bridge and embankment, but this was successfully opposed by the canal owners, whose noses were possibly put out of joint at the usurpation of their trade by these new-fangled railways.

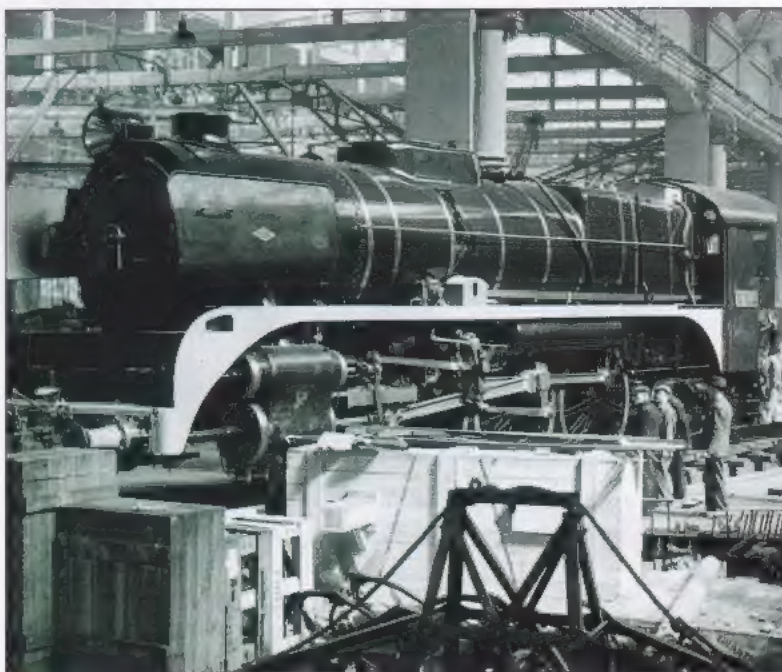
This tunnel took two-and-a-half years to build, dug by 500 men working in continuous shifts, and it is still familiar to travellers today. The present Edinburgh-Glasgow train runs through the tunnel's darkness till it arrives at Queen Street's platforms.

The railway company purchased lands at the head of the incline and began to construct yards to build and repair locomotives. These yards at Springburn were to develop, and eventually became the biggest and greatest locomotive manufacturing centre outside the United States.

In 1865 the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway was taken over by the North British Railway, and the works began to expand to build more powerful locomotives. In all, the Cowlairs works at Springburn built a total of 850, which were shipped to every corner of the globe.

Ships on the Clyde carried them to such places as Belgium, Canada, Russia, Australia, South Africa and India. In fact, the last working loco from Springburn was a 19D-type, which until recently was in service at the Lorraine Gold Mine in South Africa.

The works themselves were at their



■ Steam monster: the scene at the Springburn locomotive works.

height in 1895, when they were responsible not just for building, but also maintaining locomotives, and their stock consisted of 800 engines, 2,755 coaches and more than 51,000 other rolling stock. The workforce was more than 2,000.

Old photos of the Cowlairs workforce always fascinate, as it is hard to find a member of staff not sporting a large flat cap at a jaunty angle. Near to the Cowlairs works stood the St Rollox works, which was the manufacturing base for the Caledonian Railway. These two would eventually be amalgamated as the creep began towards nationalisation under British Rail.

Although the yards at Springburn are now just a memory, lost under the spread of modern housing, a few remnants can still be found. North Glasgow College in Springburn is housed in what was formerly the main offices of the North British Railway. This building, at 110 Flemington Street, was designed by the architect James Miller, and was officially opened in 1909 by Lord Rosebery.

Above the main entrance, a carving

of a steam engine projects forward, as if bursting from the masonry. Flanking this are two statues, one representing 'Speed', with its figure sporting a flying cloak, and the opposite figure representing 'Science', holding a globe and compass.

There are many fixtures and fittings within the building announcing its association with the North British, and leaflets giving a guide are available at reception within the main entrance. Nearby is the little Springburn Library and Museum, where information is available on the history of the district.

On the banks of the Clyde another relic of these days exists in the form of the giant Stobcross Crane, which most people seem to refer to as the Finnieston Crane, standing by the modern SECC building.

This huge structure was constructed to lift the locomotives into the holds of waiting ships. Locomotives carried on low-loaders through the city streets were once a familiar sight in Glasgow when the name of Scotland's largest city was synonymous with heavy industry.



# Scotland's Story

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p16-17 J.M. Barrie by William  
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Peter Pan Statue; Daily Record.

p18-20 Indian Mutiny by Orlando  
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p21-23 Photo Ian Nimmo: Pastoral by  
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p26-27 Motherwell Bridge.

p28-29 Piper George Findlater of the  
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Regiment: Seaforth's; Daily Record.

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# SCOTLAND'S STORY

## NEXT WEEK IN PART 46



## THE GREAT WAR

*What passing bells for those who die like cattle?  
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
Only the the stuttering rifle's rapid rattle,  
Will patter out their hasty orisons.*

So wrote Wilfred Owen, probably the greatest of  
the First World War poets, who was killed a week  
before the Armistice. Perhaps it takes poets to give  
perspective to the full horror of the Great War,  
which took the lives of 15 million people in the  
greatest bloodbath in the history of the world.  
From the nightmares of Passchendaele to the  
slaughter on Vimy Ridge, hardly a family in the  
land remained untouched. The 'war to end wars' is  
featured in the next issue of Scotland's Story.

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